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PEPs: WEEKEND MONEY EXTRA

THE TIMES

No. 64,549 SATURDAY JANUARY 23 1993 50p

MPs demand five-year rethink on pit closures

A cabinet split over the future of the coal industry will be widened by MPs' plans to rescue many pits and by reports that only government intervention can expand the coal market

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs will next week demand a five-year rescue package for Britain's pits in the belief that most of the 31 mines on the government's closure list could become viable if given short-term help.

The Commons trade and industry committee, whose report will play a key role in the final shape of next month's energy white paper, believes that there is a larger market for coal and that British Coal can match world prices within a few years.

Members are, however, split over whether financial help for the industry should come from levies, subsidies or higher electricity costs. The divisions, mirroring those within the cabinet, mean the Conservative-dominated committee has failed to complete its report and is having to hold extra meetings to finish its work in time for publication on Friday.

The need for special measures to expand the market if the closure programme is to be changed was highlighted yesterday by the publication of four reports commissioned by the industry department. The key report, by the American mining engineers John T. Boyd, found that 13 of the 21 pits it considered could be profitable if there were sweeping changes in working practices, such as extending shifts and introducing week-end work.

But it added that there was little chance of a market for their output without government intervention and concluded that given a reduced market, the selection of pits for closure appeared reasonable. Increased productivity had "little significance" in the world coal context and no pit could be viable, regardless of production costs, if there was no market. Another report, by Caminus Energy, said that the market would contract sharply over the next five years because of the "dash for gas".

In looking for ways of expanding the market, the select committee has considered controls on output from gas-fired power stations and limits on imports from French nuclear power stations. The original draft report written by the Labour chairman, Richard Ceborn, also suggested "top slicing" the £1.2 billion annual nuclear levy and diverting it to coal until the industry can match world prices.

But the committee's private deliberations appear to have foundered on whether extra help should come from within the energy industry, the Treasury or through consumers' bills.

The cabinet is also divided over help for the mines, with Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and Michael Howard, the environment secretary, opposing Michael Heseltine's preferred option of directing £700 million of subsidies at the coal industry.

The committee's report is likely to criticise the President of the Board of Trade and others for their handling of the pits debate, but members insist that they are more concerned with saving jobs than with looking back and censuring ministers.

One member said last night: "The committee is not dividing on traditional party lines. The purpose is to save miners' jobs rather than to blame, although that will be mentioned. The main thrust will be that, having identified an increased market for coal, how can we achieve it? We want to set out the practical means by which the government can ensure that any investment or subsidy does produce a return and is not just a case for putting off the evil day."

Commenting on the Boyd report last night, Mr Ceborn said it confirmed what MPs, especially his committee, already knew. "While it is very useful, it is political decisions that will have to be taken. Hopefully the committee will be able to help by giving some advice to the House in the next future."

Robin Cook, the shadow industry secretary, also suggested that the various reports merely told Mr Heseltine what he should already know — that present policies were shutting coal out of the electricity market. "What we now want to be told is how ministers intend to change those policies to give coal a fair share."

"Three months after the storm broke and several hundreds of pages of reports later, the government does not appear to be any nearer to finding a solution to the problem it has created."

Reports details, page 19



Crucial testimony: Ms Baird giving evidence to the Senate judiciary committee which led to her resignation

President under pressure on two fronts

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ON only his second day in office, President Clinton found himself under pressure on two widely different fronts yesterday as Zoe Baird, his nominee for America's first female attorney-general, was forced to resign, and US aircraft opened fire again on Iraqi missile sites in the northern exclusion zone.

Ms Baird, 40, a corporate lawyer who last year earned \$325,000, withdrew in the face of growing public opposition after she and her husband hired a pair of illegal immigrants from Peru as domestic help. She failed to pay social security taxes on the couple's employment, a lapse for which she has paid a \$2,900 fine to the immigration service.

Her resignation followed two days of confirmation hearings before the Senate judiciary committee and an outburst of protest in which Mr Clinton was accused of having abandoned his campaign pledge to favour only those who "play by the rules".

A replacement nominee is promised soon by Mr Clinton, but there are no signs that the vacancy will be filled by a woman despite pressure from America's feminist lobby.

The informal ceasefire offered by Iraq was broken for the second time in two days when an American jet was "illuminated" by ground radar and launched two missiles at an anti-aircraft battery. The incident occurred about 15 miles east of Mosul.

Pentagon officials said the aircraft had taken "defensive action" under the normal rules of engagement, but Baghdad dismissed the claim that the radar had been turned on and said the US missiles had hit a fertilizer store.

Iraq insisted that it was still committed to its unilateral ceasefire offer in spite of what it called the continued "provocation" of the West.

American attack, page 10
Baird resigns, page 10

Commuter group and unions attack railway selloff bill

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MacGregor yesterday published the government's proposals for selling off the railways, and immediately ran into a savage and sustained barrage of criticism from almost every quarter.

While the transport secretary hailed the Railways Bill as the start of a new era, opposition parties, commuter groups, local councils and unions lined up like passengers at a ticket office to condemn it. Mr MacGregor received unexpected but qualified support, however, from Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman.

Sir Bob, who had last month criticised some of the proposals, said the bill was "an important landmark for the industry", adding that he had been reassured on some of his reservations, particularly on safety and pensions. It would, he said, be difficult to replace the existing unified management with a number of self-generated units, but "it may give you a stimulus of more ingenuity, more entrepreneurial spirit by setting up those individual units."

Mr MacGregor said the bill demonstrated the government's commitment to providing a better service for the passenger and better value for money for the taxpayer. The bill contains clauses to ensure fair pricing, quality of service, safeguards against closures and the maintenance of safety.

It will open the way for lines to be sold off to as many as 40 franchise holders who will operate trains on track run by Railtrack, which will remain a public sector body. The first handful of franchised lines are expected to begin operation next year, although it could take a decade for the whole process to fall into place. Mr MacGregor added: "British Rail has made considerable strides in recent years, but its monolithic structure and culture is not the best starting point for taking our railways into the 21st century. The existing culture is more about keeping the trains running than the market-oriented thrust of identifying what the customer wants and then being flexible enough to deliver."

Three more documents concerning privatisation could be expected soon. The first, on rolling stock and its future financial provision, would be published next week. The second, on access and charging, next month, and the third, on restructuring freight. Continued on page 2, col 5

Details, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Lambeth's missing millions

By IAN MURRAY

AN emergency meeting of Lambeth council last night discussed a report on what is being called the biggest local government fraud ever committed.

The meeting at Lambeth, which has the highest poll tax in Britain and faces a £30m budget crisis, follows an internal report to police detailing fraud and inefficiency involving tens of millions of pounds. Drawn up for the Labour-run council's chief executive, Herman Ouseley, the document concludes: "We are dealing with potentially unlawful malpractice on a scale unprecedented in local government."

Opposition councillors claim the report merely skims the surface of widespread illegal contract rigging.

Council fraud, page 3

Hurd rules out wider Bosnia role

By JILL SHERMAN AND TOM RHODES

DOUGLAS HURD, the foreign secretary, last night said there would be no change in the humanitarian role of British troops in Bosnia.

His statement followed a Downing Street meeting at which Lord Owen, co-chairman of the Geneva peace talks, proposed that UN troops in Bosnia could be used in a peacekeeping role. The Geneva talks resume today.

Croatian troops yesterday stormed across the UN truce line into Serb-occupied Krajina, in Croatia, and Serb gunners blasted Mostar in Bosnia. President Cosic of the rump Yugoslavia warned the UN that his government might act to repulse the Croatian attacks if peacekeepers failed to do so.

Croat attack, page 9

Major picks Eddie George to head Bank of England

By JANET BUSH AND PETER RIDDELL

THE new governor of the Bank of England is to be Eddie George, the present deputy governor. Downing Street also announced late yesterday that Rupert Pennant-Rea, editor of *The Economist*, has been appointed as deputy governor.

Mr George replaces Robin Leigh-Pemberton who has been governor since 1983 and steps down on June 30. John Major, who appointed Mr George for a five-year term, told him that the government remains opposed to the idea, increasingly favoured in the City, of granting more independence to the bank.

The appointment of Mr George, who joined the bank's staff in 1962, appears to lay to rest widespread rumours in the City of a rift between the Treasury and the Bank of England over the handling of sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. The decision to promote the deputy governor also appears to absolve Mr Leigh-Pemberton of any blame attached to his handling of the BCCI fraud scandal.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said yesterday that he was very pleased with the appointment of Mr George, who brings to his new job "unrivalled technical expertise and a dedicated professionalism".

The government seems to have teamed up two like-minded men. Mr George is reputed to have opposed many of the interest rate cuts since 1990. Nicknamed Hard Eddie, he vociferously urged the Treasury to raise interest rates in 1988 to counteract the inflationary effects of the so-called Lawson boom. Mr Pennant-Rea, who worked at the Bank between 1973 and 1977, is believed to regard Black Wednesday, when sterling was forced out of the ERM, as the day when Britain resigned itself to its bad inflationary habits.

Mr George's appointment will be generally welcomed at Westminster. His appearance in front of the Treasury and civil service committee of the Commons have generally been more authoritative and self-confident than those of Mr Leigh-Pemberton. There will be surprise at the choice of Mr Pennant-Rea who is little known at Westminster.

Gordon Brown, Labour's shadow chancellor, said he did not want to comment on the personalities. He believed that in future, however, a prospective governor or deputy governor should come before a Commons select committee to explain their views and policies before the government ratified their appointment.



George was opposed to interest rate cuts

Major's choice, page 19

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Privatisation bill faces long haul through potentially hostile committees



Along the track: this graceful old station at Bramley, Hampshire, is one of many threatened with closure if BR is sold off to private franchise holders

Cabinet maps out route for franchising of British Rail

By TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE government paved the way for the longest privatisation in history yesterday when it published the bill that will enable British Rail to be sold to private sector franchise holders.

Unlike the sale of utilities such as gas, water and electricity, the measures do not signal the start of a City frenzy in which the public will be bombarded with exhortations to buy shares.

If the bill, which enables the government to put into practice measures outlined in its white paper, survives intact through potentially hostile Commons committees, the process may take up to a decade to fall into place. This

■ The government is promising a better, brighter future for Britain's rail passengers. Critics, however, expect a disturbing journey into the unknown

is partly because running a railway is not an immediately attractive proposition for investors.

The large loss made by BR — almost £150 million in 1991-2 despite some £900 million in government subsidies — means the network, which ranges from InterCity to remote lines in Wales and Scotland, cannot be sold as a single entity.

The bill received a qualified welcome from Sir Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, who said his board had already expressed its concerns that investment programmes should be adequate, bureaucracy minimised and network benefits such as through-ticketing preserved.

The bill is a 117-page document containing 132 clauses, almost every one of which could be challenged before its provisions are transformed into an act. It constitutes the most radical change to Britain's railways since 1948 and outlines what the railway network could look like by the end of the century. It is divided into three parts. The first sets out the franchise

agreements between train operators, the appointment of the rail regulator and the director of passenger rail, and the establishment of new consumer committees.

The second restructures British Rail into the new authority, Railtrack, and details the sale of BR's freight and parcels business. The third deals with miscellaneous provisions concerning pensions, concessionary travel, safety and policing.

Its main plank is the franchising of all BR's existing passenger services to the private sector operators. It is envisaged that there could be as many as 40 franchise holders, who will hold their licences for five years or more.

Potential franchise holders will bid to run services and the winners will be determined not only on the quality of service, but on the amount of subsidy requested. It is hoped the input of private enterprise will lead to a considerable reduction in subsidies. Although the bill caters for

the possibility of a franchise holder granting access to another passenger operator, that is unlikely to happen if it puts off potential bidders.

THE FRANCHISE

The franchise holders will not own the system over which their private trains will run. This will be operated by Railtrack, which will not receive any subsidy from the government and will be expected to pay its way from the revenues it receives from the franchise holders. It will, however, be able to apply for capital grants for new investment programmes.

Railtrack will be responsible for operating all track and infrastructure, including signalling and essential line maintenance. British Rail will continue to operate passenger services until they are all franchised.

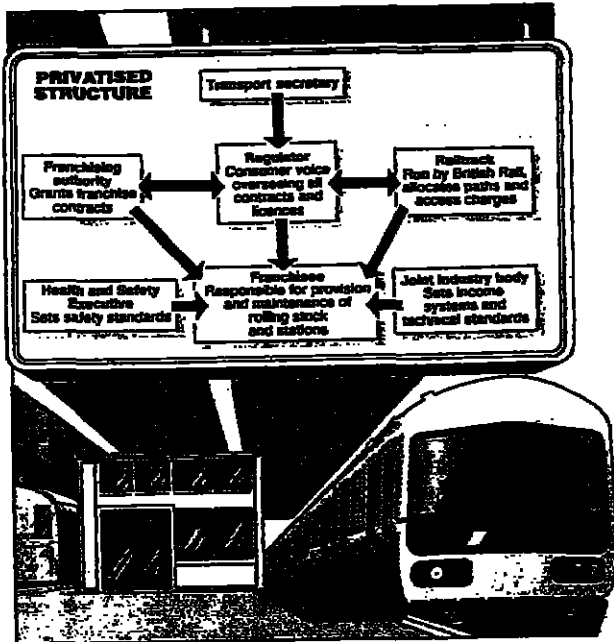
Eventually, it is envisaged that Railtrack will be sold off, possibly to a single buyer.

Fair competition and the protection of consumer interests will be safeguarded by the appointment of John Swift QC as rail regulator. Roger Salmon, chairman of Cuff and Co, will become director of passenger rail franchising to negotiate franchises for passenger services with the private sector.

One of Mr Swift's duties will be to ensure that fares on lines which remain monopoly services will be strictly regulated. Closure procedures will remain as stringent as at present and national timetables will be maintained.

To ensure the maintenance of uniform standards, safety will continue to be the responsibility of the Railway Inspectorate as part of the Health and Safety Executive. Passenger interests will be safeguarded by the establishment of new Rail Users' Consultative Committees and the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee to replace the existing bodies. The bill also allows for the sale of BR's freight business.

Leading article, page 13



Commuters attack railway selloff

Continued from page 1
services, would probably be published in March. Although the railways were being privatised bit by bit, "the ultimate intention remains the complete privatisation," Mr MacGregor added.

Major General Lennox Napier, chairman of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the rail users' national watchdog, said: "Passengers are being taken on a journey into the unknown. It remains to be seen whether the destination is one where they may want to go. I am anxious for the future."

Robert Adley, MP, chairman of the Commons transport committee, which earlier in the week claimed that the proposals jeopardised the integrity of the passenger network, dismissed the bill as "a masterpiece of academic theory". He said the intention of splitting responsibility to track and signalling from the running of trains made the proposals "fundamentally flawed".

Brian Wilson, for Labour, claimed the bill would transfer enormous powers to the transport secretary to do effectively what he liked. "That is dangerous and unwarrantable, given John MacGregor's failure so far to deal with the most profound objections."

Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, described the Bill as a "complete dog's breakfast". He claimed a passenger travelling from Plymouth to Aberdeen could end up using seven or eight different rail-

way companies with no guarantees of a co-ordinated through ticket. "By declaring open season and letting any private buccanner who wants to bid for any bit of railway they fancy, the government is deliberately allowing the disintegration of the network," Jimmy Knapp, leader of RMT, the largest railway union, said the government was making policy on the hoof. The bill, he said, was based on deceit and demonstrated the government's arrogance towards public transport users.

Richard Rosser of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, said: "Fares will rocket, investment will plummet, services will be cut and the railway network will contract."

Stephen Joseph, director of Transport 200, claimed the bill could lead to fare increases, cuts in services and even closures leading to more traffic jams and pollution on the roads.

Derrick Fullick, general secretary of Aslef, the train drivers' union, said: "A train driver who ignored as many warning signals as this government has done over rail privatisation would be sacked for trying to wreck the system."

The Railway Development Society claimed that without further fundamental changes the measures would force freight on to the roads and make trains more expensive and less convenient for millions of passengers.

Leading article, page 13

Detectives find Miss Whiplash in Florida

Lindi St Clair was found alive and well in Florida last night after a five-day search. The self-styled Miss Whiplash, who sparked off a nationwide search after she abandoned a hire car on Beachy Head, East Sussex, on Sunday, was traced to Fort Lauderdale after detectives had uncovered travel documents among her papers.

Police last night said they were considering prosecuting Miss St Clair, 40, for wasting their time. Det Supt Michael Bennison, of Sussex police, said: "It is a ridiculous and stupid act. She has caused a lot of people a lot of work and caused her mother a great deal of heartache." Miss St Clair, of Charlton, southeast London, was allegedly staying in Florida under a false name and false passport.

She disappeared after threatening to publish intimate details of allegedly powerful clients, including cabinet ministers. She was believed to be acting in revenge after the Inland Revenue had sent her a £112,000 tax demand. Up to ten detectives a day were assigned to the case and helicopters were used to search the Sussex coast in an operation that cost up to £50,000.

Girl, 12, raped at home

A girl aged 12 was raped at knifepoint at her home in Heaton Moor, Stockport, on Thursday evening by a man who tricked his way into the house while her parents were at work. Greater Manchester police believe the girl may have been followed after she got off a bus near Heaton Chapel railway station and walked home. Det Supt Rod Murray said that within a few minutes of arriving home she answered a knock on the door and a man claiming to be a painter and decorator told her he wanted to look round the house in order to give an estimate. As the girl showed him the rooms he threatened her with a craft knife, raped her and fled shortly before the parents arrived.

Smoker hanged himself

A teenage smoker hanged himself after being put in a no-tobacco area of a custody centre at the start of a six-month term for burglary, an inquest was told yesterday. Four days earlier police had saved Patrick Murphy, 16, of Hull, as he tried to kill himself in court cells, but a doctor at Deerbolt young offenders' institute, co. Durham, overruled a police classification of him as an "exceptional suicide risk". In a suicide note, the 30-a-day smoker said he needed cigarettes to beat depression. A jury returned a verdict of suicide.

Bosnia inquest opens

A British soldier died instantly when he was shot in the head as he escorted a charity ambulance in Bosnia, an inquest was told yesterday. Lance Corporal Wayne Edwards, 26, of Cefnau, near Wrexham, Chwyd, became the first British soldier to die in the conflict when he was caught in a gun battle between Muslims and Croats. John Hughes, the South Chwyd coroner, formally opened and adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed, releasing the body for a burial with full military honours in his home village on Monday.

Unions' GCHQ protest

Thousands of trade union activists will travel to Cheltenham in Gloucestershire today to demand the restoration of union rights at GCHQ, the government's electronic eavesdropping centre. The unions show no sign of abandoning their fight nine years after ministers announced a ban on union organisation because of the "special nature" of the facility's work. Most of GCHQ's 7,000 staff took the government's offer of £1,000 compensation and resigned their union membership.

Cliff the philanthropist

Cliff Richard, right, has given millions of pounds to worthy causes, including more than £450,000 in one year. Luke FitzHerbert, of education charity Directory of Social Change, disclosed yesterday. The 52-year-old singer has given consistently to a variety of charities, Christian and secular, since 1981. Mr FitzHerbert said: "It must be getting on for millions and he does it without seeking publicity."

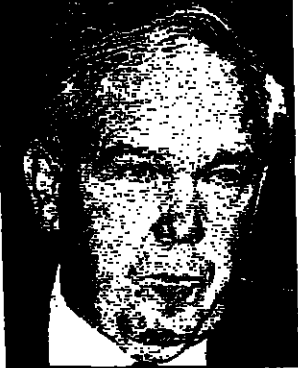


Gales kill three

Three people have died in Scotland as gales with winds gusting up to 90 mph swept the country. Roads were blocked by falling trees and 63,000 homes lost power for a while. David Houston, 41, of Renfrew, died when a tree crashed on to his car near Strathaven, Lanarkshire. Ian Urquhart, 28, from Braemar, was killed when he was blown off a roof he was repairing at Glenshee ski centre. Grampian. In Glasgow a man in his 50s died after being hit by flying debris in the city's Springburn district.

Terrier wins the day

A dog was relieved yesterday a year after being impounded on suspicion of being an unregistered pit bull terrier. The case of Ozy, a dog pronounced a Staffordshire bull terrier by Judge Watts at Southwark Crown Court after a three-day trial, is estimated to have cost £50,000. The dog would have been destroyed if a magistrate's ruling that Ozy was a pit bull terrier had been upheld. Two Crufts judges gave evidence that Ozy, owned by Michael Coffey, of Neasden, northwest London, was a Staffordshire bull terrier.



Sir Bob: gives the bill a qualified welcome

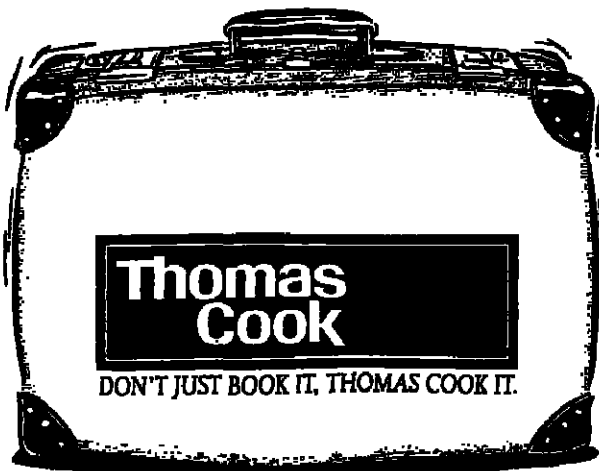
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Imbert joins top editors in arguing for press freedom

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MEETING of 21 editors and senior staff from every national newspaper yesterday unanimously rejected proposals for a statutory tribunal to regulate the press.

Their stand gained support from Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, who yesterday made an impassioned plea in the interests of justice and freedom to the Government not to gag the press.

In a statement issued by the Newspaper Publishers' Association, the editors rejected the view expressed by Sir David Calcutt QC in his report last week that the press would make no further movement to extend effective self-regulation.

"To the contrary, the editors backed a vigorous and continuing review of the industry's code of practice, which they have supported for two years under the supervision of the Press Complaints Commission and Lord McGregor, its chairman," the statement said.

The meeting also endorsed changes to the

Code of Practice to provide further safeguards against eavesdropping and bugging.

Sir Peter, who retires tomorrow after nearly 40 years in the police, said the media must be allowed to expose wrongdoing, even if that meant putting his own profession under the spotlight.

He told the Crime Reporters' Association that he had occasionally joined in criticism of excesses by the media. But he said: "We must maintain a free press and we must resist any efforts at all to gag the press, to prevent you from exposing wrongdoing whether by other parts of society, by criminals, by me or by others in my profession."

"That is not an easy thing to say. But it is so vitally important that you report honestly, you report without fear, you report without favour, because if you are not vigilant in your profession then certainly justice and freedom will suffer."

The meeting of newspaper editors also agreed to support changes to the membership of the FCC, to allow for a majority to be drawn from outside the industry.

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Sex selection clinic prompts wave of protest

■ Sperm sorting is one of many medical breakthroughs that will have serious moral and ethical implications for individuals, scientists and religious groups

By Nick Nuttall and Nicholas Watt

LAWYERS with the health department were last night studying the legality of a clinic in north London that claims to offer couples a reliable way of selecting the sex of their child.

The move came as the two doctors at the centre of the dispute defended the right of married couples to choose their children's sex. Dr Alan Rose, a retired consultant chemical pathologist and the clinic's medical adviser, said: "Our service will lead to fewer abortions. Nowadays, women can find out the sex of their children and take the action they want. Parents have to give an undertaking not to have an abortion if the child is the wrong sex. I see myself as a pro-life."

The health department's decision follows a wave of protest over the service amid concern among some MPs, scientists, doctors and pro-life campaigners that the service is unethical and could lead to more morally questionable techniques. There is also concern that the method being used is scientifically flawed and unable to reliably tailor the sex of a child.

Dr Rose and Dr Peter Liu, who operate from a terraced house in Hendon, north London, have drawn up a code of conduct. Only married couples who already have a child can use the service. The sex of the child selected at the clinic has to be opposite to existing children. As the doctors defended themselves, they were inundated with telephone calls from couples wanting to sign up. They had received more than 50 calls by midday.

Dr Liu, the clinic's director, who studied biochemistry at Imperial College, London, said: "There is clearly a high demand for the service. We can't deny parents that choice." He said the health department should use its code as a basis for licensing similar clinics.

A spokesman for the health department said: "We take the view that no reliable sex selection has been developed



Issue of choice: Dr Liu and Dr Rose see no moral objections to their sex selection technique and claim an 80 per cent success rate

ly affect males, and several techniques are being studied to minimise the chances of boys being born.

A spokesman for the authority said that evidence supporting the effectiveness of sperm sorting, the method being used at Hendon, was slim. Sperm sorting is claimed to have a success rate of up to 80 per cent. "The chance through normal sexual intercourse is about 50 per cent," he said.

Professor Campbell said there was an argument for unlicensed clinics such as the one in Hendon to suspend sex selection services pending the outcome of the consultation.

He said the moral and ethical issues of sex selection were just the start of what is likely to be an annual debate over new medical breakthroughs. "Some of these will hold many promises and some will be regarded as deeply worrying."

Leading article, page 13



Make haste when the north wind blows...

By Nigel Hawkes

SCIENCE EDITOR

METHODS of trying to choose the sex of children are as old as mankind. The ancient Greeks believed that tying off the left testicle would produce boys. Making love while the wind is in the north, keeping your boots on, or eating a raw egg have also been recommended; but even doing all three at once would not improve on chance.

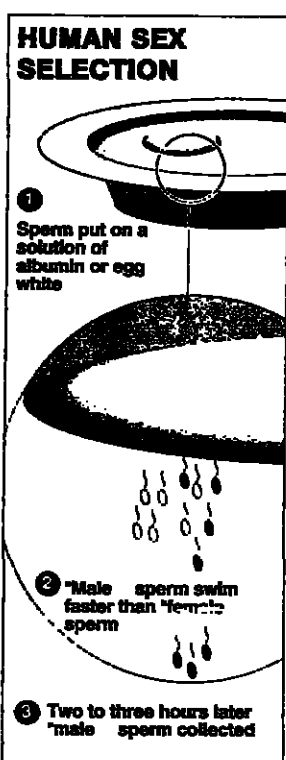
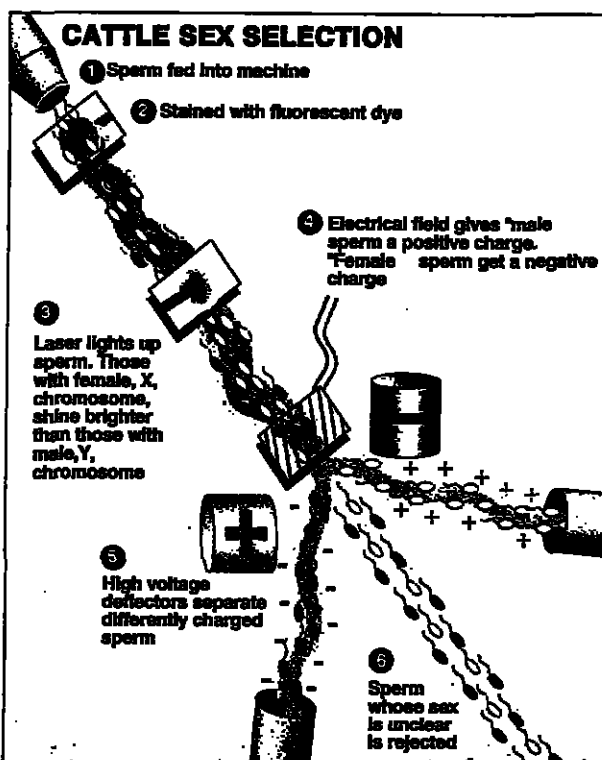
An effective technique would immediately alter the sex ratio in favour of boys. In America, it has been estimated that a 9.5 per cent excess of boys would be produced; in other cultures the ratio would probably be higher.

Such an imbalance would not be fatal to the species, which has survived greater mismatches in the past. In the aftermath of the second world war, the preponderance of women over men in Germany and Russia was about 10 per cent. In some past Inuit societies, there have been twice as many boys as girls. The human race would survive, though social life would be damaged.

A more subtle effect might be to entrench sexism. Most couples would choose to have a boy first, denying girls the advantages possessed by first children, which include assertiveness and self-confidence.

Some argue that sex selection would help population control in the Third World by enabling families to have the sons they want without the daughters they don't want. That is the defence used by sex determination clinics in India, where there is a 7 per cent excess of men over women achieved by infanticide, neglect of baby girls, and sex detection in the womb followed by selective abortion.

The most obvious plus would be medical. Some genetic diseases, including haemophilia and one form of muscular dystrophy, are suffered only by boys. Defects in the X-chromosome are usually no problem to girls, who have a second copy of the same chromosome that masks the deficient one. But boys, with only one X, have no such back-up.



Council fraud runs into millions, says report

By Ian Murray

POLICE have been sent a report that documents tens of millions of pounds of fraud and inefficiency by Lambeth council, drawn up for Heron Ouseley, the council's chief executive, concludes: "We are dealing with potentially unlawful malpractice on a scale unprecedented in local government."

According to opposition Conservatives in the south London borough, the report does no more than scratch the surface of wholesale illegal contract rigging and inefficiency that has made Lambeth the most corrupt and incompetent local authority in the country.

News of the promised enquiry was welcomed last night by Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, who said: "Labour will not tolerate corruption, inefficiency or malpractice whether it is in local authorities, in government departments or anywhere else."

Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall, said that she had long been ashamed of the council's record. "The whole place is falling to bits with corruption and the party is naturally very concerned. I find it all very sad. The people are suffering."

The internal report discloses that millions of pounds were spent by different departments without being authorised. Some £9.5 million was apparently earmarked illegally for road maintenance alone, while 40 per cent of all the money spent on housing repairs was paid without seeking approval of the relevant committee. The main beneficiaries were awarded contracts by the council's direct labour office.

In 1991 redundancy payments of £1.8 million were paid to 214 staff who were granted early retirement without reference to the council.

At the same time senior council officials claim that some of those who drew up the report have been intimidated along with their families.

The findings of the report have prompted Steve Whaley, leader of the Labour-led council since 1991, to call for a top-level independent investigation into maladministration, unlawful activity and

corruption. It is likely to be headed by Andrew Arden QC, who has conducted similar enquiries in Hackney, Bristol and Camden.

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Nilsen film producer accused

By Richard Ford

HOME CORRESPONDENT

A TELEVISION producer was subpoenaed to enter a prison to film an interview with the mass murderer Denis Nilsen for a documentary, and later took a sneak copy of the interview because police collected all copies, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mike Morley, a producer with Central Television, was logged at Albany prison, Isle of Wight, as a psychologist. Mr Justice Aldous was told. Michael Silverleaf, for the Home Office, said: "It appears he obtained access... if not by deceit, at least by subterfuge."

The interview with Nilsen, jailed for life for six murders, was conducted by Paul Britton, a forensic psychologist, with equipment provided by police and Central. Officials thought it was to aid research for the Home Office, but Mr Britton was also a consultant for Central's *Murder in the Mind*. Central thought it had consent to visit the jail.

In an affidavit, Mr Morley said he had made clear his plan to use the interview in his programme, and denied hiding his identity. He had a copy made because he considered the tape Central's property.

Central contests a Home Office request for the interview to be banned as a breach of contract or of copyright. The case continues on Monday.



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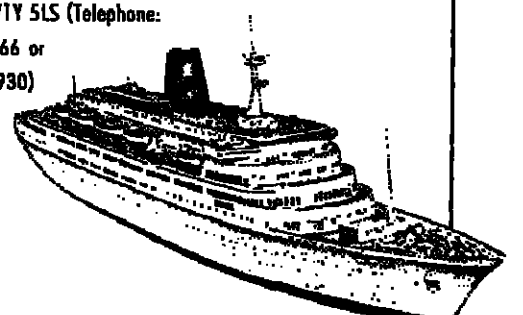
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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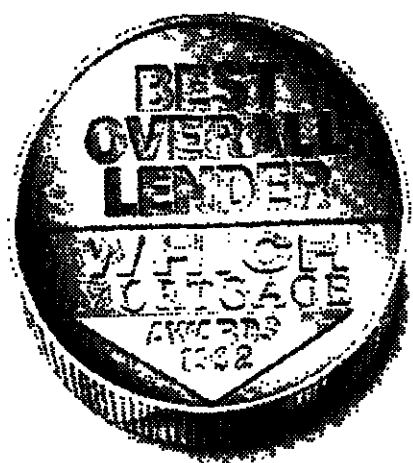
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British Coal policy endorsed

13 mines earmarked for closure could become profitable

By ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 13 of the 21 pits earmarked for closure by British Coal could become profitable, according to an independent report published yesterday by the government's own coal review.

The study, drawn up by the American mining consultants John T. Boyd, said longer working shifts and improved mining techniques could enable British Coal to cut output costs substantially. The consultants also concluded that British Coal's decision to close pits, and its choice of pits to keep open, had been reasonable. Given the likelihood of a sharp contraction in its markets, triggered by electricity privatisation, British Coal had little choice but to cut capacity, Boyd said.

That conclusion, reinforced in a report by Caminus Energy, increased pressure on the government to intervene to enlarge coal's market. With nuclear power protected by subsidies, coal is being crowded out by gas, the study showed.

British Coal hailed the findings as a vindication of its actions, although expressing reservations about some aspects of the report.

Robin Cook, Labour's industry spokesman, said the reports confirmed what was already known. "Three months after the storm broke and several hundreds of pages of reports later, the government does not appear any nearer finding a solution to the problem it has created," he said. "Time is running out for Michael Heseltine, who now has only a few weeks to find

the formula that will save British Coal."

The studies are among six commissioned by the industry department in its search for an alternative strategy to the closure of 31 pits, with the loss of 30,000 jobs, unveiled last October. A second Boyd study, into prospects for the ten pits already closed, will not be completed until the end of next month.

The consultants make it clear that whatever the outcome of the review, British Coal still needs to achieve substantial savings if it is to compete with imported coal from low-cost mines in America, Australia and elsewhere.

Boyd's engineers examined the prospects of the 20 pits British Coal plans to keep open and 21 earmarked for closure or mothballing. They concluded that the corporation could make up to 33 of the 41 pits competitive if buyers could be found for all the coal they could produce. Modernisation could take up to five years and would require urgent changes in legislation to allow miners to work fewer but longer shifts below ground, and at weekends.

Modernisation would also require adoption of some different mining techniques to speed development of new coal faces.

To help that process, Boyd recommended that Point of Ayr Colliery, where such techniques have already been introduced, be kept open. The colliery, where 470 miners work, has been earmarked for closure by British Coal.

Two further reports confirm

the urgent need for British Coal to simplify its management structure and shed white-collar jobs. A study by Ernst & Young said British Coal could achieve substantial savings by shedding 3,000 of its 7,000 white-collar staff.

The study recommended the closure of the Hobart House head office at Victoria, London, and suggested directors should be relocated to coalfields. British Coal has already hired its own consultants to draw up a simplified management structure.

The 13 pits that Boyd believe could be profitable are Point of Ayr; Maltby, Hatfield, Prince of Wales, Frickley and Rossington in South Yorkshire; Wearmouth in the North East; and the Midlands pits of Silverdale, Bentley, Shirebrook, Bilthorpe, Calverton and Clipstone.



300 million years BC: an artist's impression of the temnospondyl, a predecessor of the crocodile

Footprints predate the dinosaur age

By PAUL WILKINSON

SCIENTISTS have discovered what they say are the oldest existing footprints in Britain, made 100 million years before dinosaurs existed. They belong to an ancestor of the frog which was about 6ft long and looked like a cross between a crocodile and a newt.

The prints were made by the four-legged temnospondyl, an amphibian that lived 300 million years ago and was one of the first creatures capable

of leaving footprints. About 20 have been discovered in sandstone layers on the Northumberland coast at Howick near Craster.

Maurice Tucker, a sedimentologist in Durham University's geology department and an acknowledged expert on the footprints of prehistoric animals, said: "It's an amazing find. It's very interesting for scientists and the general public. They are the oldest footprints in existence in Britain. Dinosaurs, which are what most people get excited about, weren't

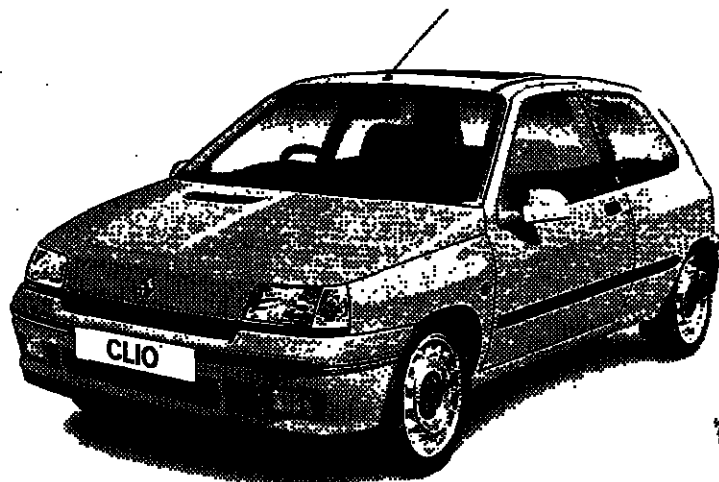
about for another 100 million years." Temnospondyl would have lived on land, but returned to water to lay its eggs.

The prints were found by David Scarbro, an amateur palaeontologist from Reading, Berkshire, who called in Dr Tucker.

Unfortunately, the wave erosion that uncovered them is now washing them away and attempts at preservation have failed. Dr Tucker said: "They will probably be eroded in a year."



Sands of time: one of the marks



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Pit unions scorn 'irrelevant' report

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Boyd report on the future of the coal industry was yesterday generally dismissed as irrelevant by people outside British Coal involved with mining.

Ken Capstick, vice-president of the Yorkshire miners, said: "I don't think anyone is going to take it seriously. It was commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry; in other words, commissioned by Michael Heseltine himself."

"We have never believed that Boyd was independent and so we don't take too much notice of that one. We are more interested in truly independent reports. We will be even more interested in what the Commons select committee has to say next week."

Neil Greatrex, general secretary of the Union of Democratic Miners, said: "I am not surprised at what it says. Boyd produced a report for British Coal a few months ago on what it had to do to prepare for privatisation. They are not going to change that now, they would look a bit stupid. It will not be a major influence. It is based on the

market for coal now and given the present situation it would reach that decision. We say the market needs looking at."

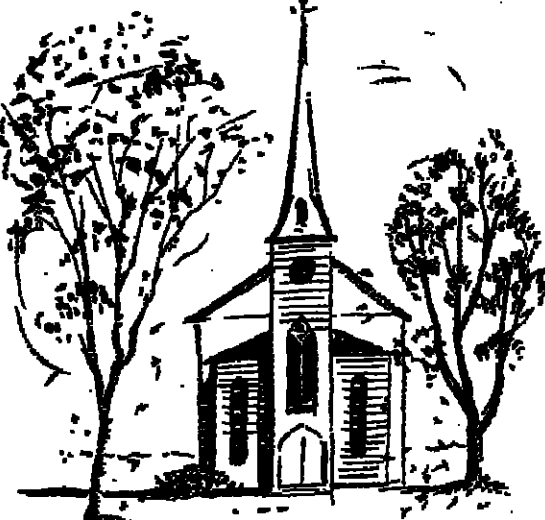
Gerard McCloskey, of the consultants International Mining Report, said: "It goes a long way towards dealing with costs and shows how efficient British Coal can be, but it does not tackle the central issue of coal versus gas competition."

Hedley Salt, chairman of the Coalfield Communities Campaign (CCC), an all-party pressure group of local authorities, said the report was a "totally inadequate" response that failed to consider the central issues.

"The report had reached the same conclusion that the CCC had been saying for months: that the market for coal is being squeezed."

"The issue is not how many pits can be kept open in the current unfairly rigged market. The issue is whether the government is prepared to take action in the electricity market to allow coal to compete on a level playing field against other fuels."

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British Library buys family papers that reveal a forgotten genius

■ The reputation of Sir William Petty, designer of everything from tax reform to the first catamaran, is about to return to the dizzy heights it enjoyed under Cromwell

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

SCHOLARS are hoping to resurrect the reputation of Sir William Petty, the neglected 17th century economist described by Samuel Pepys as "the most rational man that ever I heard speak with a tongue".

Dr Frances Harris, curator of 17th and 18th century manuscripts, called the purchase "one of the most important historical acquisitions in recent years. This was the most important collection of papers of this sort to remain in private hands and now that we have them it is extremely exciting."

The papers were bought from Petty's descendant, Lord Shelburne, for an undisclosed sum, thought to be more than £1 million and made possible by a £700,000 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. They include treatises on diverse subjects, illustrating the breadth of Petty's thought.

His reputation, great during the 17th century when he was considered a visionary and advised both Cromwell and James II on affairs of state, has not been handed down. But specialists believe he ranks alongside Boyle and Locke as a seminal thinker. They expect his ideas to gain wider historical currency.

Peter Barber, curator of manuscript maps, said: "He was not well known, partly because these papers have remained in private hands. But he was also a very un-English figure in many respects: we did not much prize the abstract thinker. He was also more continental in that he was the willing tool of an absolute master."

The scholars expect to find new insights into how Petty's thinking developed and how

his highly organised mind worked. Much of the material represents "genuinely uncharted territory", according to Mr Barber.

Laurence Brockliss, a 17th century cultural historian at Magdalen College, Oxford, said that Petty was the "founding father of statistics in this country. There are so many important 17th century figures for which there are no private papers. The chance to study working documents will be exceptionally useful."

Perhaps most exciting is the opportunity to study in detail 103 large scale maps from the "Down Survey" of Ireland. The mapping project, co-ordinated by Petty from 1655-59, underpinned the Cromwellian land settlement and recorded an administrative geography which remained essentially unchanged until 1921. It was the first official survey of any part of the British Isles and the maps are described as "major state documents for the history of Anglo-Irish relations".

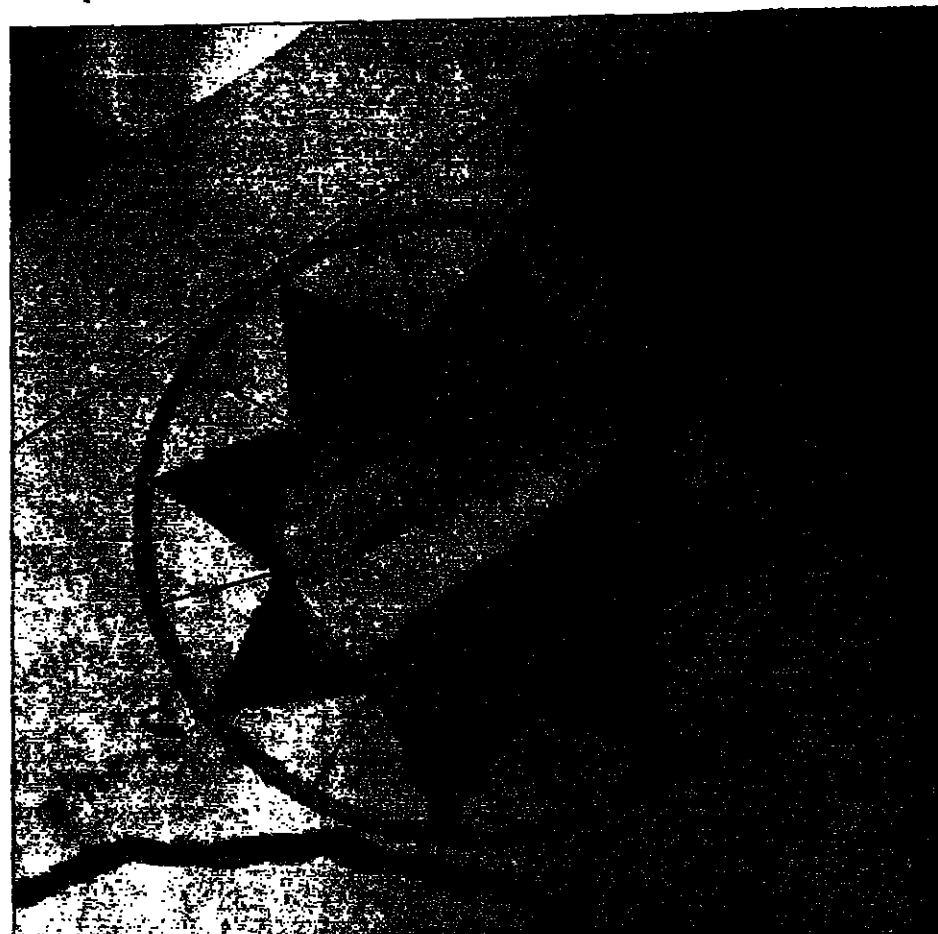
Other documents, well preserved by Lord Shelburne, show a spindly black handwriting that worsens as Petty's eyesight fails. Treatises on reform of the taxation system, on Building a Fire Proof City, and on Preventing the Abuse of Oaths hold a wealth of facts about society in the time of Pepys. Petty invented the catamaran and used geometry in all his thinking.

Marx, Brentano and Keynes regarded Petty as the founder of political economy on the basis of papers written for publication, but the new archive contains working documents, letters and jottings that show Petty's anticipation of seminal ideas.

Simon Jenkins, page 12



Map-maker: detail from one of 103 large scale maps from Petty's Irish survey



Different perspective: a compass shows west in the usual position for north



Man of many parts: scholars hope to revive Petty's fame as a unique thinker

Short plays safe for quick draw

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short sought the safety of an early draw on Wednesday night in the eighth game of his world championship eliminator against Jan Timman in San Lorenzo, Spain.

Short, playing white, selected a harmless opening variation. What slight pressure he might have enjoyed ended when Timman forced the trade of queens on the 19th move. Short proposed the draw on move 28. Each player now has two wins.

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	16 Qd4	Bg5
2 d4	Nf6	17 Qd5	0-0
3 Bc4	Nc6	18 Rf1	Qf5
4 Bb3	Nb4	19 Rf2	Qf5
5 Qd2	Nc6	20 Qd5	Bd5
6 Bb3	Qd7	21 Nf1	h5
7 Bc4	Qd7	22 Rf1	Rd8
8 Nf3	Nf6	23 Rf2	Qf5
9 Qd2	Qd7	24 Bb3	Qf5
10 Nf3	Qd7	25 Bb3	Qf5
11 Bb3	Qd7	26 Bb3	Qf5
12 Qd2	Qd7	27 Bb3	Qf5
13 Bb3	Qd7	28 Qd5	Qf5
14 Qd2	Qd7	29 Qd5	Qf5
15 Rf1	Bg5		Draw agreed

GPs endanger patients by forging results of drug research tests

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FRAUD by doctors involved in medical trials could lead to unsafe drugs being approved for use, a study published yesterday said.

Stephen Lock, a former editor of the *British Medical Journal*, and Frank Wells, medical director of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Companies, said several cases of fraud were uncovered every year, while others undoubtedly happened but went undetected.

The association has prepared a confidential "blacklist" of doctors it suspects of presenting fraudulent results. Where the evidence was sufficient, cases were taken to the General Medical Council, which struck off three doctors in 1991 for faking data.

David Latta, a Glasgow GP,

was struck off for inventing data in a study comparing two drugs for high blood pressure. In his case, suspicion was aroused when none of the 22 patients he was supposed to be treating showed any side-effects, though the type of drug being tested was known to produce them.

Lakshmi Pandit, a Wimbledon GP, was also struck off in 1991 for fabricating data in a study of a new Glaxo drug for asthma. Diary cards which were meant to be filled in by the patients were all in the same handwriting, and all filled in the same way. All began on the wrong day, an unlikely error for four independent patients to make.

So far, ten doctors have been reported to the GMC and all have been found guilty. Why

they did it was difficult to understand, Dr Lock said. The amounts of money paid to doctors carrying out trials were small, seldom more than £1,000, and often the forging of results took more effort than doing the work properly.

Dr Lock suspected that in some cases researchers might suffer a "Messiah complex", fiddling the results to suit their strongly held prejudices. That may have been true, he thought, in the case of Dr William McBride, an Australian gynaecologist who claimed to have been the first person to warn the world of the dangers of thalidomide.

In the late 1970s, McBride became convinced that another drug, the anti-morning sickness drug Debendox, was also causing abnormalities in babies. He had no evidence,

but made sufficient fuss for the drug to be removed from the American market. Eventually, he faked evidence to show that a closely related compound damaged rabbit foetuses. After the longest hearing against a doctor yet held, McBride finally admitted his offence.

Dr Wells said that statistical methods could often be used to trap forgers, but that in many cases watertight evidence could not be assembled. In such cases, the association's blacklist could be used to prevent dubious researchers being given another chance to mislead. "There probably are cases out there which with better techniques we will be able to detect, but we have to be careful. To accuse somebody falsely of scientific fraud is a very serious charge," Dr Wells said.

Dr Lock and Dr Wells said that more protection was needed for those who blew the whistle on scientific fraud, often to the detriment of their own careers. "Often the whistle-blower is punished more than the guilty party," Dr Lock said, citing the case of Margot O'Toole, an American researcher who reported her suspicions of work done by a colleague. Although O'Toole's suspicions were eventually proved correct, she lost the chance of working in science for several years.

□ *Fraud and Misconduct in Medical Research*, edited by Stephen Lock and Frank Wells (BMJ Publishing, £24.95)

The week of prayer for Christian unity began on Monday. Jesus in St John's Gospel prayed that they may all be one, that the world might believe. Church co-operation would seem fitting at such a time. But Lord Rees-Mogg opened the week by issuing what read like a semi-official invitation to dissident Anglicans to join the Roman Catholic Church, offering them a warm welcome, the continued use of the Book of Common Prayer (not that they use it much), "conditional ordination" and a separate existence within the church in England.

Karl Rahner called for an "ecumenical theology of the future" to combat secularism. Not so Lord Rees-Mogg. He admitted its influence on all the churches, but with a difference. It had "emptied Anglican churches", but only reduced Catholic congregations. Statistics show a different picture. According to the detailed census reported in *'Christian England'*, the Roman Catholic churches showed the greatest decline of all, 11 per cent, during the years 1985-9, with Anglicans losing 7 per cent. A small

Credo

Compromise needs the support of all

Hugh Montefiore

error, perhaps, but interesting in view of what follows.

Lord Rees-Mogg suggests that if the dissident Anglicans become Roman Catholics, their priests would need only conditional ordination, because the 1898 Vatican declaration about Anglican orders focused on intention, against those who did not intend to become priests in the Catholic sense of the word. Those nowadays who do so intend "are in a different position".

In fact, *Apostolicae Curiae* was not about the intention of individual priests, but the intention of the Church of England as reflected in the Anglican Ordinal. The circumstances surrounding the Encyclical suggest that ec-

clesiastical rather than doctrinal motives predominated to give a negative verdict. But it has never been rescinded. How could conditional ordination apply to those whose Anglican orders are regarded in principle as "absolutely null and utterly void"?

Dissident Anglicans are in an agonising position. If they become Roman Catholics they face not just reordination. They must accept doctrines such as the infallibility of the Pope, which previously they have denied. Can they do this in good conscience? They have been loyal Anglicans, but feel betrayed by women's ordination.

They decline to accept the authority and sacraments of pro-women bishops, asking

in effect for alternative episcopal oversight. But this is a most uncanonical demand. They dispute the authority of the Anglican Church to make women priests. But since their church renounced the Pope's authority at the Reformation, it is hard to fault women's ordination because Rome has not agreed to it.

Anglicans should take seriously last week's offer of the Church of England's house of bishops, whereby pro-women diocesan bishops will arrange for bishops with "clean hands" to minister in troubled parishes. This just keeps within the limits of catholic order, because the diocesan will still be in charge of these parishes, but bishops suspected of having "dirty hands" will not celebrate sacraments.

This is a typical Anglican compromise which would enable the Church of England to remain together. I would have hoped that, after a week of prayer for Christian unity, this solution may be supported by other churches as well. □ Hugh Montefiore was Bishop of Birmingham, 1978-87

Claimants lose aid in tranquilliser case

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL aid is being withdrawn from some 1,700 people preparing to sue over the alleged side effects of tranquillisers.

The decision, by the Legal Aid Board, has put in doubt the future of Britain's biggest personal injury action, in which 5,250 claimants are suing the makers of six tranquillisers and sleeping pills. Lawyers fear that the action, which is open to appeal, indicates a tougher line over the granting of legal aid at a time when the Lord Chancellor is determined to see costs brought under control and much closer scrutiny of applications.

In another potential mass action, lawyers representing some 200 people who claim to have been damaged by smoking have had their request for legal aid to sue tobacco companies rejected.

The board is reviewing all the tranquilliser cases in which court proceedings have been served. Lawyers are now going out to the effect that legal aid is to be withdrawn unless the lawyers can give good reason for it to be continued. The board says that it "does not feel able to continue to support claims relating to these drugs." The withdrawal of

legal aid affects claims where people are seeking compensation for addiction to three tranquillisers involved in the mass action manufactured by Roche - Valium, Librium and Mogadon.

The other 3,500 claimants are preparing cases over three other drugs - Ativan, Serenid and the banned sleeping pill Halcion - which are also under review.

The board says that no final decision has been taken; it is expected within the next few weeks. Most Halcion claimants missed the deadline set by the court for bringing claims and have already been refused legal aid.

Steve Orchard, chief executive of the Legal Aid Board, denied the board had toughened its policy. He said: "The tranquilliser actions and the smoking cases had reached quite different stages, so they can't really be compared."

The Legal Aid Board declined to discuss the reasons for the withdrawal, saying only that the cases failed on the "legal merits" test.

The lawyer handling the smoking cases, Charles Hopkins, of the law firm Leigh Day & Co, said the refusal of legal aid might be challenged through judicial review.

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Future of the welfare state

Treasury backs higher taxes for pensioners and child benefit cut

By JILL SHERMAN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

MEANS-TESTING child benefit and freezing income tax allowances for pensioners are being pressed by Treasury ministers as part of the government's attempt to rein in the spiralling public sector deficit.

The move comes as a group of Thatcherite Tory MPs prepares to blaze a trail for Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, to make drastic long-term cuts in his £80 billion-a-year budget. The No Turning Back group — which has been invigorated by an influx of eight new right-wing Conservative MPs, and whose members include Baroness Thatcher, Mr Lilley and Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary — plans to produce a report calling for the welfare state to be reduced to a safety net for the poor. It is likely to advocate an end to contributory state pensions for all and universal payments such as child benefit.

The aim of the report is to help to create a climate in which Mr Lilley could propose a radical overhaul of the welfare state. The social security secretary has acknowledged that with the country in the grip of a recession and with unemployment set to break through the politically sensitive three million barrier, now is not the time for big

changes. He has publicly denied that he is considering a shake-up this year.

The idea of means-testing child benefit, which could save billions of pounds, is being advanced by the Treasury, social security sources have disclosed.

"The interest rate option has now gone and we are left with higher taxes or cutting public spending," one insider said. "Backbenchers will have to decide which manifesto pledge to break — higher taxes or universal benefits," he said.

Means-testing child benefit is thought unlikely to feature in the March Budget, but a tax on invalidity benefit is considered a rumour. Nearly £6 billion is spent on invalidity benefit, and taking it would save £550 million. Plans to do this were drawn up before the Autumn Statement by Treasury and social security officials.

Both departments are also said to favour freezing or lowering personal tax allowances for pensioners, which would bring many more into the tax net. This would be in line with Mr Lilley's view that pensions should be directed more at those in need.

It is also argued that while the rate of inflation is so low, a break with the uprating link

would be feasible. At present, all pensioners receive more generous allowances than those under 65, which increase as they get older.

The difference between tax allowances for a married couple under 65 and a couple over 65 is £1,500.

The No Turning Back group's report will be produced by MPs such as David Willetts, Alan Duncan, Iain Duncan-Smith, Liam Fox, John Sykes, John Whittingdale, Bernard Jenkin and Michael Brown.

One MP said that the question the group had to face was: "How bold can we be without being accused of stealing from the poor?" Themes would include taking pensions out of state hands, the future of universal benefits and promoting self-reliance and ending dependency.

Minister reflects on hospital closure proposals

ADRIAN BROOKS



Polished performance: Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, unveils a plaque to open a £400,000 education centre at Broadmoor hospital, Berkshire. It replaces a wooden building with four classrooms used for the past 16 years.

Mrs Bottomley is said to have backtracked on the Tomlinson proposals to close or merge 15 of London's top hospitals after a meeting with the prime minister ten days ago, but London MPs from all parties still fear that she will go ahead with some of the plans (Jill Sherman writes). The proposals would cost at least £1 billion to implement, according to a draft report from the Labour party. The report, to be published next week, will be seized on by Tory MPs who oppose the closures. One ministerial

source yesterday said that he now expected few of the proposals would be implemented when Mrs Bottomley responds next month, concentrating on merger proposals. St Bartholomew's, Charing Cross, the Royal Brompton and the Royal Marsden are expected to be re-prieved, at least for a while.

Labour's report will say that capital costs of closing or merging the hospitals will be at least £450 million, while streamlining medical schools would cost £200 million. In addition, improving primary health care would cost over £300 million and redundancy payments would be at least £170 million. Sir Bernard Tomlinson estimated that £130 million would be needed to build up community services but was not asked to cost most of his exercise.

School test to change after leaks

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PAPERS for this summer's English tests for 14-year-olds are to be withdrawn because questions have been leaked to newspapers and unions. But the tests will go ahead despite teachers' objections, John Patten, the education secretary, announced yesterday.

Many teachers have threatened to boycott the tests because they consider them unreliable. The leaking of questions earlier this week was an apparent attempt to sabotage the exercise.

However, the School Examinations and Assessment Council has agreed to commission new papers to allow the tests to go ahead in June. In a letter to Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, the council's chairman, Mr Patten said pupils had been following the curriculum for more than two academic years and it was "only right and fair" that they should have a chance to take the tests.

The new papers will be based on the same format as those piloted last year. The National Union of Teachers is balloting members on a boycott of the tests, and the more moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers plans similar action if the government refuses to make this year's tests a pilot run.

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, described the leaking of test questions as an "act of sheer malice".

In a separate announcement, Mr Patten said slow learners and some handicapped pupils will not have to sit written examinations for 16-year-olds. Instead, teacher assessment will be accepted.

Free vote hits Sunday trade plan

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND ROBERT MORGAN

RADICAL plans for reform of Sunday trading were knocked off course yesterday as MPs overwhelmingly supported proposals to allow only minor changes to the law.

Supporters of the Keep Sunday Special Campaign claimed that they had forced the government "into a corner" over its plans for total deregulation of Sunday shopping. In a free Commons vote, MPs voted by a majority of 173 for a bill, opposed by the government, allowing only small shops to open on Sunday. The vote was a clear indication that MPs are far from convinced that total deregulation, as proposed by the government, is the solution to the present discredited trading laws.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, has said that he intends to put three choices before the Commons and has made clear he favours total deregulation, as exists in Scotland. But MPs voted last night by 214 votes to 41 for a backbencher's bill that allows limited opening only for small shops selling certain goods.

The government said last night that it would press ahead with its total deregulation plans, although it admitted that it was "extremely unlikely" that new laws would be in place by next Christmas, when large retailers are expected again to flout existing laws by opening on Sundays.

Mr Clarke told MPs before Christmas that the government would bring forward a bill containing three choices: complete deregulation, limited opening of small shops, or more general opening.

Major leads British traders back to India

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is to urge the Indian government next week to continue its efforts to reform its economy so the country becomes more attractive to British and other investors.

The prime minister, who leaves for Delhi today to start a five-day visit, will be accompanied by a team of leading British businessmen and Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, who will be seeking to exploit the potential for Western firms that has been opened up by India's switch to a more market-based economy.

Mr Major will seek reassurance in talks with P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, and other ministers that the recent outbreak of factional violence that has left hundreds dead will not harm the prospects of British companies.

Among the business delega-

tion will be Dick Evans, the chief executive of British Aerospace, who will be pressing for a deal to provide India with nearly 100 Hawk military training aircraft.

Talks will also focus on the religious and factional conflicts in the northern Kashmir and Punjab regions.

Mr Major will be feted during his visit as few representatives of the old colonial power have been, signifying Delhi's determination to build bridges with the West after the collapse of the Soviet Union, its former economic mentor (Christopher Thomas writes).

The symbolism of inviting Mr Major is more significant than any immediate practical benefits, since it shows India's desire to turn economically towards Europe and the United States.

Business mission, page 17

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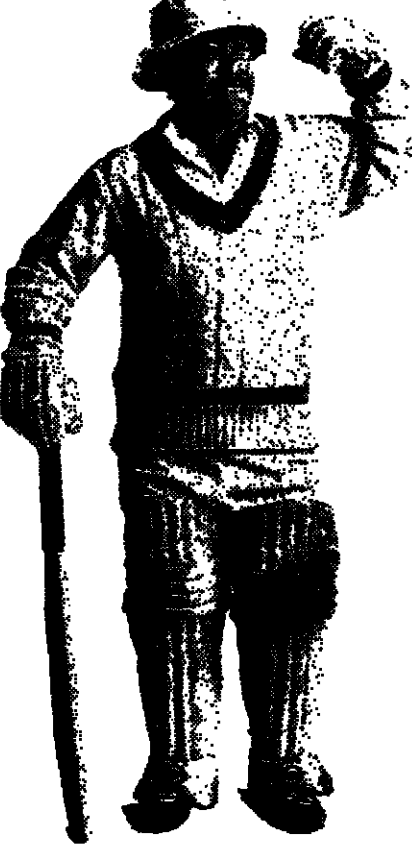
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Ukraine refuses to sign CIS charter for closer union

■ The CIS summit in Minsk could not agree about whose finger should be on the nuclear trigger. It is doubtful whether other documents on practical co-operation will have much effect

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE summit of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Minsk ended last night with the signing of a charter on closer co-operation proposed by Russia and Kazakhstan. After heated debate, Ukraine, Moldova and Turkmenistan refused to sign.

The result will be a two-tier CIS, with an inner core of seven states including Russia, Belarus, Armenia and all but one of the Central Asian republics, and an outer core of the other three, as well as the former Soviet republics which have left the CIS but which remain closely bound to it economically.

Commonwealth leaders speaking after the summit implied that no agreement had been reached on the thorniest question, that of control over Soviet strategic nuclear missiles stationed in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. At present Russia has administrative control, but shares political control, under the CIS, with the governments of the republics concerned. A Russian deputy defence minister said before the summit that Russia would ask for full control of these weapons, but this was rejected by Ukraine.

President Yeltsin described the outcome as "a decision that suits everybody and does not create problems for the national interests of individual states". Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian leader, said that the refusal to sign the charter did not mean leaving the CIS, and that "the heads of state confirmed that the CIS has the potential to improve its work in all spheres, both economic and political".

The seven signatories are expected to ratify the charter in the course of the year. However, given the volatility of politics in the region, it is not clear that all will do so. It is also doubtful whether even the documents on practical co-operation signed in Minsk will have much effect. As Ukrainian spokesmen noted this week, the year since the Soviet Union's collapse has

seen the signing of more than 200 CIS documents and literally thousands more bilateral ones between republics. Most of them have never been implemented.

The deepening economic crisis has forced the republics to recognise their interdependence and this new spirit was reflected at Minsk; but it has also led desperate governments to clutch at every possible economic advantage, however damaging to their partners and however self-defeating in the long run.

The most concrete step taken at Minsk was the agreement to create an inter-state bank, desperately needed to facilitate trade payments between the republics. These are often months in arrears, forcing creditor firms to default on



Kravchuk promises to keep economic links

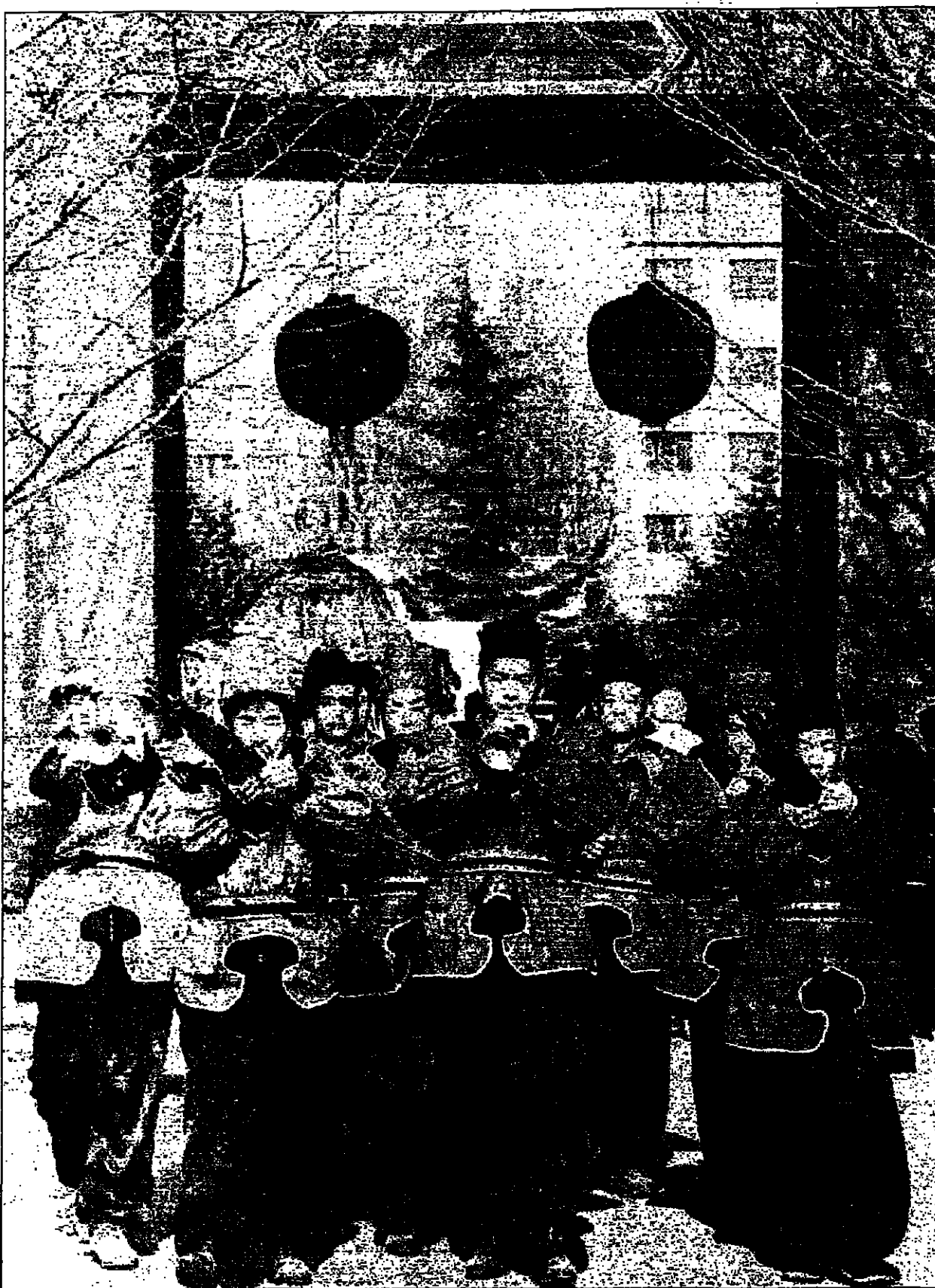
their own payments and risking domino-effect bankruptcies. Yevgeni Gorelik, for the CIS, said all ten CIS republics have finally agreed that Russia should have 50 per cent of shares and votes in the new bank; however, a two-thirds majority will be needed for any decision. The new bank will deal mainly with clearing payments for trade, and is not expected to function as a central bank and controller of money supply. The leaders agreed a range of other measures on practical co-operation in fields ranging from communications to the

fight against organised crime. In a syndrome familiar from meetings of the British Commonwealth, Uzbekistan succeeded in having the question of human rights removed from the main agenda. Its government has been criticised for human rights abuses and suppression of the opposition. Ukraine supported Uzbekistan over this in Minsk.

Representatives of the 10 million-strong Russian minority, and of some of the more pro-Russian Ukrainians in the east and south of the country, have been demanding a closer union with Russia. Ivan Gritsai told the parliament in Kiev yesterday that President Kravchuk, by distancing himself from the CIS, had "led Ukraine into an unnatural state of isolation which gives no possibility of putting industrial co-operation into practice". The regional council of the Russian-dominated Crimea region of Ukraine yesterday also urged closer CIS co-operation. Its appeal to the CIS summit said: "The habit of giving an absolute priority to ideas of independence is breeding new problems which are putting an unbearable strain on the peoples themselves".

□ "Super-plague": Vladimir Pasechnik, a Russian scientist who defected to Britain, has described how he worked on developing a strain of plague for use as a weapon against the West (Michael Evans writes).

Dr Pasechnik, who defected while on a business trip, was in charge of one of the former Soviet centres for covert biological weapons research. He said that the genetically manipulated "super-plague" could kill half the population of a town of 100,000 inhabitants in a very short time. Interviewed on BBC TV's *Newnight*, Dr Pasechnik said he believed that the programme, banned under a 1972 international treaty, could be going on, despite an announcement last April by Mr Yeltsin that he had stopped the research.



Wind of change: an old-style Chinese band parading through the Temple of Earth in Peking yesterday to welcome the Year of the Rooster, which begins today. A frail-looking Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, made a rare appearance yesterday with Communist officials in Shanghai to mark the new year, which celebrates longevity and prosperity (Catherine Sampson writes from Peking). For many Chinese, Mr Deng, 88, has much in common with the god of wealth, the deity traditionally linked with Chinese wealth to many.

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new year. For decades the Communists banned the god's images as superstitious nonsense, but now they are reappearing widely as people hail the capitalist reforms which Mr Deng has instituted and which have brought wealth to many.

Denmark prepares for a new coalition

Copenhagen: Ten days of a political vacuum in Denmark are due to end this weekend with Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the opposition Social Democrat leader, set to form a centre-left coalition government (Christopher Follett writes).

The new administration will be led by the Social Democrats but will include three small centrist groupings: the Radical Liberals, the Centre Democrats and the Christian People's Party. With a one-seat majority in the 179-member Folketing, or parliament, it will be Denmark's first majority administration since 1971, ending a ten-year era of Conservative-Liberal rule under the outgoing prime minister, Poul Schlüter.

After talks with Mr Schlüter, who resigned last week after an enquiry into Danish courts on Tamil refugees, Queen Margrethe was expected to ask Mr Rasmussen, 49, a former trade union economist, to form a cabinet by Monday.

Spy released

Hong Kong: Lo Fu, 72, a journalist convicted in China of spying for America, returned to the colony after ten years spent under house arrest. He was reported to have been freed to coincide with Bill Clinton's inauguration as president (Reuter).

Cuban redress

Havana: Benetton, the Italian casual clothing manufacturer, is to open a chain of shops in Cuba, selling to foreign tourists. Cuba is increasingly wooing Western European capital to develop selected sectors of its economy (Reuter).

Aznavour aid

Paris: The singer Charles Aznavour won French government backing for an aid mission to Armenia, which is involved in fighting with Azerbaijan over its claim to the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Aznavour's parents were born in Armenia (Reuter).

Homes bombed

Tokyo: Two bombs exploded at the homes of Akira Hiyoshi, the deputy defence minister, and the defence ministry's chief secretary, but no one was hurt. Police blamed the attacks on extremists opposed to Japan's role in Cambodia (AFP).

Singer dies

Paris: Helno, the lead singer of Les Nègresses Vertes, France's leading "world music" group, died overnight at his Paris apartment, apparently of a drug overdose. Helno, born Noel Rota and the main spokesman for the group, was 29 (AP).

Pedal prowess

Cape Town: An Iranian, 71, who has cycled from Iran to South Africa via France, is due to set off for the Mediterranean from Cape Town this week. Feridoun Obahi, a former cycling champion, raises money for children's charities en route (AFP).

Feuding right still fears Mitterrand

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

ELSEWHERE they wait for polling day before declaring the winners, but not in France. Two months before the parliamentary election, the government has all but accepted defeat, the opposition is feuding over the spoils of victory and the president is sketching plans for life with a hostile prime minister.

In the latest manoeuvring yesterday, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, signalled that he has abandoned his Olympian posture above the fray and made it known he would accept the prime minister's job in March. Officials at the RPR, the Gaullist party, reported that their man, Edouard Balladur, was the best candidate. Jacques Chirac, the RPR leader who "cohabited" as President Mitterrand's prime minister for an unhappy two

years (1986-89), suggested that "everyone should calm down and stop counting their chickens before they hatch."

On Thursday Mitterrand conceded that he expected the Socialist Party, which he founded in 1973 and led to power in 1981, to be thrown out of power in March. His defeatism is based on opinion polls which show the Socialists winning only 20 per cent of the vote, against 43.5 per cent for the alliance of RPR and centre-right UDF grouping of M Giscard d'Estaing.

The sense of foregone conclusion surrounding the election springs from the moral and political collapse of the Socialists. Nearly 12 years from their triumph arrival as a force for change, they are wallowing in opprobrium, accused of arrogance and indifference to the country's plight.

They are so discredited that Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, wants them to tie low along with their left-wing ideas. His idea is to cut the party's losses by leaving the front line to his more popular ministers: the two "St Bernards" as the party calls them disparagingly: Bernard Kouchner, the humanitarian action minister, and Bernard Tapie, the urban affairs minister.

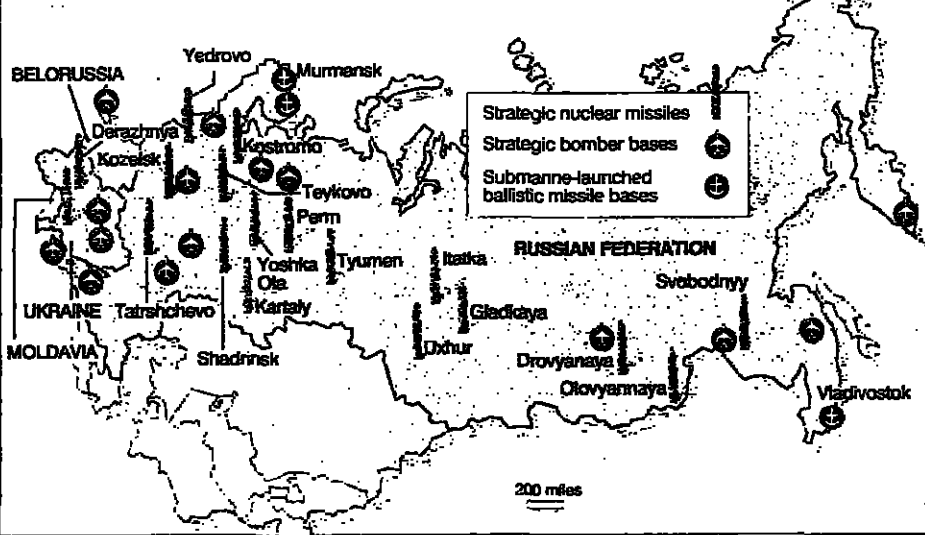
The Socialists are only too aware that, in his drive to stay in power until 1995, Mitterrand has kissed them goodbye. "After all, M Mitterrand's first term finished up sacrificing socialism," *Le Monde* said. "It makes sense that the second one winds up sacrificing the Socialists." Laurent Fabius, the party leader, has tried to quell the defeatism among his troops, but the

attempt was not helped by Michel Rocard, the former prime minister and likely presidential candidate. "If we lose power, remember it is not forever," he said in a gloom-laden speech.

While the polls show a probable conservative victory, with the RPR leading the UDF, much of the electorate is pronouncing indifference to both sides.

Both the UDF and RPR leaders are in agreement in their view that power-sharing may be out-manoeuvred in the run-up to the presidential election of 1995. Although Mitterrand is 76 and suffering from prostate cancer, his Machiavellian skills terrify his adversaries. "He mesmerises them like a cobra," *Le Point* magazine wrote.

CIS: WHERE THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE



Czechs and Slovaks to vote next week

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

THE Czech and Slovak parliaments will begin voting next week for the heads of Europe's two newest sovereign states, more than six months after the resignation of Vaclav Havel, the federal president.

The decision to hold the Czech elections on Tuesday marked a sudden about-turn in the policy of Vaclav Klaus, the prime minister, who had called it "a premature question" following the earlier decision by Slovakia to set a date for elections.

Mr Havel, the playwright politician, would provide a welcome counterbalance to the pragmatic prime minister if he was elected president, although the post carries less power than before. Nominations will remain open right up until the elections.

So far Mr Havel is the favourite of the three Czech candidates, who include a woman biochemist nominated by the left and the xenophobic leader of the far right Republican party.

Mr Havel may have won the support of all the coalition parties but his ride may not be an easy one. A secret ballot, which has still to be agreed on, would inevitably allow the numerous dissenters to put

personal preference before party loyalty and thus necessitate a second vote. Alexander Dubcek, hero of the Prague Spring in 1968, was one of the few Slovaks well known abroad and his death has presented a headache for the government of Slovakia, which had hoped his name would help instil trust among the international community.

Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak prime minister, claims the decision to nominate Roman Kovac, his deputy, was made only after unsuccessfully securing the country's academic institutions for potential great statesmen. As a protégé and ally, however, Mr Kovac could be useful to the prime minister. A trade union leader in 1991, he proved his allegiance to Mr Meciar by attempting to organise a series of national strikes when Mr Meciar, a former communist, was dismissed as prime minister.

With the backing of Mr Meciar's ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, Mr Kovac needs only two more votes to win. But these can come only from the left-wing party led by Peter Weiss, who is likely to make his support conditional on significant political rewards.

Moro guard widow condemns jail pass

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

MARIO Moretti, leader of the Red Brigades at the time of the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the prime minister, is to be allowed out of prison for the first time on a special four-day pass today. He is being released to allow him to attend a computer course, but the decision has aroused criticism.

Moretti has spent 12 years in prison, where he is said to be a model prisoner, working in the hospital wing of a Milan prison and devoting the rest of his time to computers. The former terrorist leader, who now acknowledges that the "armed struggle" was a mistake, is one of 20 prisoners who have been inputting data on pharmaceutical purchases for the regional government of Lombardy.

Moretti will stay with a sports journalist while he is on the course. He will have to report once a day to a police station and remain at home between 10pm and 7am.

Ileana Leonardi, the widow of one of Moro's five bodyguards who were killed by the Red Brigades when they kidnapped the Christian Democrat party leader from his car in Rome in March 1978, said she was outraged at the news.

"Moretti was the head of the group that massacred Oreste and the others of the escort," she said. "I don't understand why he should be granted this privilege and why they continue to keep Curcio [the Red Brigades' founder, who never committed murder, in prison. The truth is they're making fools of us all."

Renato Curcio has been in jail since 1974. Francesco Cossiga, the former president, publicly promised to have him freed but did not deliver on the pledge.

Moretti has been much criticised for failing to clarify some of the mysteries surrounding the Moro case. This has fuelled suspicions that outside forces may have used the Red Brigades to block Moro's attempt to seek an accommodation with the Communists in the late 1970s.

News of Moretti's release came days after it was disclosed that Moro's daughter, Maria Fida, was in straitened circumstances and in need of a job. "At least treat me like the terrorists who kidnapped and killed my father," she said. "Otherwise people could be led to believe that the state, or a part of it, owes a debt of gratitude to the terrorists."

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THE TIMES

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION GUIDE

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IT WILL FEATURE:

- How to choose an Independent School - David Tytler.
- Martin Pyper, Head of Gordonstoun, one of the leading Independent Schools, gives his opinion on the educational values that Independent Schools adopt.
- John O'Leary writes on how Independent Schools are adapting to the Children Act.

It will also include advertising from a select number of Independent Schools from around the country.

Weary Clinton shoulders the blame for Baird's fall



Baird: proposed by the Secretary of State

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's fledgling administration was struggling to regain its poise yesterday after Zoe Baird resigned as his nominee for attorney-general in a dramatic midnight exchange of letters.

A sleek and wealthy corporate lawyer, Ms Baird withdrew in the face of growing opposition to her nomination. A weary-looking Mr Clinton took the blame for the stumble. "I feel very badly about it, but I'm responsible for it," he said at the start of his first cabinet meeting. He held himself accountable for failing fully to assess the seriousness of Ms Baird hiring two illegal aliens to help care for her child and drive her car and of failing to pay taxes for them.

She resigned after a second tense day of Senate judiciary

committee confirmation hearings which had unleashed an extraordinary outburst of public protests. Thousands of people called Capitol Hill urging senators to vote against the nomination.

Mr Clinton came under pressure from feminist groups to nominate another woman for the vacancy. They firmly reminded him of his commitment to choose the first woman attorney-general.

Dee Dee Myers, White House press secretary, said the new nominee, to be announced soon, would not necessarily be a woman. Ms Myers also claimed that Ms Baird decided on her own to resign as her support crumbled and was not pushed by Mr Clinton.

Mr Clinton appears to have

■ Bill Clinton's eagerness to appoint a woman attorney-general seems to have clouded his judgment. Future nominees are likely to face closer scrutiny

been blinded by his eagerness to appoint America's first woman to the post. Just as President Bush nominated Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court primarily because he was black, so Mr Clinton chose Ms Baird because she was female — with equally disastrous results.

From the outset Mr Clinton's four-strong short list for the post comprised women only. One rejected the job, two were rejected by him. Ms Baird, as a Clinton adviser put it, was simply "the last woman standing".

Party activists who had hoped for the appointment of

a liberal or civil rights lawyer were further upset to learn Ms Baird shared Dan Quayle's pro-business views on legal reform. But it was her employment of illegal immigrants that really sparked the revolt. Mr Clinton had campaigned as a champion of humble Americans who "play by the rules". He promised the highest ethical standards. He was now promoting one of America's elite who had patently broken the law.

Ms Baird, 40, had been upset and exhausted when her evidence before the confirmation hearing ended at 9.30 on Thursday evening. She called

Warren Christopher, the new Secretary of State who had recommended her to Mr Clinton, and told him she should withdraw.

By then White House officials were also convinced her cause was doomed. To save her would have required an enormous expenditure of the new president's political capital that could have left him seriously weakened. Democratic senators, on whose good will the president must rely, would have been embarrassed to vote against his choice, but also distressed to support a nominee so widely opposed by voters.

In her letter to Mr Clinton, Ms Baird said the controversy would impede her goal of revitalising the justice department. She wrote that she had been "forthright about the circumstances surrounding my child care situation", and

she was "surprised at the extent of the public reaction".

She hired a Peruvian couple with no work permits and paid no social security taxes for them despite a joint income with her law professor husband of \$660,000 (£428,000) a year. They paid the couple \$5.97 an hour. Ms Baird has paid a civil fine of \$2,900 and back taxes of \$12,000. The Peruvians face deportation.

In his reply, Mr Clinton accepted her resignation "with sadness" and called her an exceptionally gifted attorney and a person of great decency and integrity. He thought her actions in relation to the illegal immigrants only barred her from the post of attorney-general because the job was to uphold the law which she had broken, and he hoped she would be available for other assignments.

In an accompanying state-

ment released by the White House at 1.22am, Mr Clinton said that, although Ms Baird made a candid disclosure about her child care arrangements, the review process of his cabinet selection team had "failed to evaluate this issue completely". Mr Christopher had related some details about Ms Baird's employees but the implications were not realised by either man.

The resignation was greeted with relief in Congress where ten senators had already declared they would vote against Ms Baird's nomination. However, she is not out of a job. Her employers, Aetna Life and Casualty, a health insurance company based in Connecticut, said they would welcome her back as a vice-president and general counsel at her old salary of \$507,000.

Hoffa in Hollywood, page 12

US aircraft attacks missile battery in northern Iraq

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON, ANDREW FINKEL IN SALAHADDIN AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE informal offer of a ceasefire by Iraq was broken for the second time in two days yesterday when an American jet was tracked by ground radar and launched two missiles at an anti-aircraft battery.

The incident occurred in the northern no-fly zone, about 15 miles east of the city of Mosul. The plane, an F4G Wild Weasel, was patrolling with an F16 Fighting Falcon when it detected the Iraqi radar. It fired two Harrier anti-radar missiles at the battery. The F4G took "defensive action" after on-board indicators confirmed the aircraft was being tracked by Iraqi surface-to-air missile target-tracking radar, the Pentagon said.

The first missile failed to neutralise the radar and the second was fired after it continued to track the aircraft. The Pentagon said the F4G had responded to a "clear threat to coalition task force aircraft", but officials were still reluctant to say whether they thought the Iraqis were deliberately provoking the Americans to test the resolve of their new president. After a similar clash on Thursday, Baghdad denied having "tracked" American aircraft and insisted that it was adhering to the ceasefire it had offered on the eve of President Clinton's inauguration.

Yesterday Baghdad still insisted that the ceasefire remained in effect and denied the Pentagon's version of Thursday's events. In a statement Baghdad dismissed the

claim that radar had been turned on and said that the American bombs had set fire to a fertilizer storage area and damaged crops. "Iraq still abides by its declared ceasefire despite the behaviour of the US plane which was aggressive and provocative."

At the Pentagon, on Les Aspin's first full day as defence secretary, a spokesman dismissed the Iraqi claim that its radar had not provoked the bombing.

Under the rules of engagement, coalition pilots involved in enforcing the southern and northern no-fly zones can open fire if they are threatened by Iraqi ground radar "locking on" to their aircraft. Such attacks do not require prior political approval but can be carried out on the judgment of the individual pilots. The rules have not changed since Bill Clinton became president.

George Stephanopoulos, the new White House spokesman, said President Clinton would not soften the hardline stance towards Iraq. American aircraft would continue to respond to any threat against them from Iraqi air defences. "The president is prepared to hold firm with Iraq. They must comply with all the United Nations resolutions."

In all other respects Baghdad appeared to be complying with UN resolutions. A second batch of UN weapons inspectors arrived without interference in the Iraqi capital yesterday and Iraqi planes were no longer violating either

the northern or southern no-fly zones. Edward Perkins, the American ambassador to the UN, said it appeared that Baghdad was "complying with the manifestations of the security council. If that's so, I hope this will cool down the heat."

Baghdad also denied that there were missile batteries in the area where Washington said it had launched an attack. "There is no Sam 3 or any other type of anti-aircraft battery east of Mosul," an Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman said. Iraq said it would monitor the actions of American and allied planes enforcing the no-fly zones. The language of the Iraqi statement was noticeably low-key. No rhetoric was directed at Mr Clinton.

The ceasefire Iraq offered Mr Clinton on his inauguration suggested it would let American and allied planes continue to patrol the no-fly zones without fear of attack while it sought a dialogue with the new administration.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic party, called upon the new Clinton administration not to take "half measures" but to implement a comprehensive plan co-ordinated with the Kurds to restore democracy to Iraq. Both he and Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, discussed a possible military push towards the oil city of Kirkuk, on Wednesday.

The allies have been at pains to discourage an attack on Kirkuk and have said that they would not provide air cover. However, were President Saddam Hussein to lose the city it would, almost inevitably, result in his own downfall.

The death toll from the US Tomahawk cruise missile attack on Sunday rose to three yesterday when a man who suffered head wounds from shrapnel died in hospital. Two women were killed when a cruise missile hit by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire fell in front of the al-Rashid hotel in central Baghdad.



Clinton's troubles, page 1

First Lady takes on higher office

By MARTIN FLETCHER

JUST two days into Bill Clinton's presidency, it was already apparent yesterday that his wife, Hillary, has been given a more prominent and public role in his administration than any previous First Lady.

Mrs Clinton has been allocated an office just above her husband's Oval Office in the west wing of the White House, the nerve centre of any administration. First Ladies have in the past operated from the east wing.

Mr Clinton has also turned to his wife to help develop his plans for reforming America's health care system, a pivotal element of his presidential programme. Though First Ladies have regularly enjoyed private influence with their husbands, they have traditionally restricted their public roles to helping charitable causes or performing social duties.

Mrs Clinton is a highly talented and accomplished lawyer, with extensive experience in the fields of child welfare and education, but she is a woman of strong liberal convictions and her prominence in her husband's administration looks certain to cause controversy. Early in his presidential campaign Mr Clinton considered his wife an electoral asset, joking that people who voted for him would get her free. But after she appeared to displease mothers who "stayed at home and baked cookies" the Clinton team began to see her as an electoral liability.

Mrs Clinton was recast for the final seven months of the campaign as a supportive wife and devoted mother, an image quickly jettisoned after the election. She played a big role in the selection of her husband's cabinet and sat in on most key transition meetings.

Mr Clinton has now sought her help on the health care programme because his advisers have so far failed to resolve extending health insurance to all Americans while simultaneously curbing health care costs through "managed competition". Those advisers reportedly told him that his health care reform plans would cost up to \$90 billion (£59 billion) a year without significantly slowing health spending for at least three years. That would disrupt his broader economic objectives.

In another controversial



Counter attraction: Chelsea, President Clinton's 12-year-old daughter, is welcomed to the Hard Rock Cafe in Washington on a surprise visit there with friends

move yesterday, Mr Clinton was expected to reverse two Republican anti-abortion policies, ending bans on foetal tissue research and on federally-funded family-planning clinics offering abortion counselling. Several hundred abortion opponents protested outside the White House and thousands were preparing to march to the Supreme Court to mark the twentieth anniversary of the *Roe v Wade* ruling that established

a woman's constitutional right to abortion.

Sixteen of Mr Clinton's senior appointees were sworn in at the White House. Mr Clinton was scheduled to sign an executive order establishing a National Economic Council akin to the National Security Council. He is also preparing to announce, within the next few days, a two-step plan for lifting the ban on homosexuals serving in the military.

The White House has been experiencing numerous teething problems, with staff unable to reach their offices for lack of security passes, minimal supplies of such basics as stationery, faulty computers and confusion over telephone numbers. George Stephanopoulos, the new communications director, became embroiled in an argument with the White House press corps over plans to restrict reporters' access.

RAF makes ready for deportee mission

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THREE RAF helicopters are ready to leave Cyprus this weekend to mount a mercy mission to southern Lebanon and lift from the icy no man's land Palestinian deportees dumped there in error by Israel and others in need of medical treatment.

Wessex 5 helicopters from the RAF's 84th Squadron will fly the mission if final approval is given. They have previously rescued survivors from a ferry shelled off the Lebanese coast and last year took part in fighting forest fires near Beirut.

British sources said after the Lebanese and Israeli governments raised no initial objection to the mission, requested by the International Committee of the Red Cross, that it could begin today if security considerations allowed.

The sources said that one helicopter would go to the camp first carrying four Red Cross officials, including a doctor. The exact timing of the airlift to bring out the Palestinians would be decided after that. Each helicopter can carry 15 troops or seven stretchers.

Last night a statement from the British sovereign base at Akrotiri — once the target of Islamic guerrillas after the 1986 American bombing of Libya — said that the destination of the rescued deportees was as yet unknown.

Britain's initiative, designed as a first step towards solving the crisis over the 413 alleged supporters of the Islamic group, Hamas, stranded for the past five weeks, came amid reports that the impasse is close to sabotaging the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks due in Washington next month.

All Egypt's semi-official papers yesterday carried identical reports quoting "informed diplomatic sources" as stating that the Arabs would not attend until the deportees had been returned.

As details of the airlift were being completed, Israel launched a diplomatic offensive designed to prevent the United Nations Security Council from taking further action over the deportees until the high court in Jerusalem has ruled early next week on whether their expulsion was legal.

Historian battles Kennedy clan

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

IN THE week that Bill Clinton sought to take over the mantle of President Kennedy, the debate over the historical legacy of the Kennedy clan is raging with undimmed ferocity.

Writing in yesterday's *New York Times*, the British historian Nigel Hamilton, whose highly critical biography detailing the family life of the young JFK caused near apoplexy among Kennedy acolytes, accused the Kennedys of withholding information about the assassinated president, obstructing researchers and trying to enforce a sanitised version of his life.

"Their lack of co-operation not only led me to believe they dislike history," Hamilton wrote of the surviving children of Rose and Joe Kennedy, "but are all determined to defy its demands to the final bell, as they have for 30 years."

The first volume of Hamilton's 926-page biography covering John Kennedy's life until the age of 29, entitled *JFK, Reckless Youth*, was published in America last year and painted an uncompromis-

ing picture in the author's words of "the emotional neglect by his mother when he was small, the despotism of his manically ambitious father and the effect of such a dysfunctional marriage on JFK's character".

The book's publication prompted the surviving four Kennedy siblings to write an article in *The New York Times* last December defending their parents and attacking what they called Hamilton's "reckless biography".

"We categorically reject the misjudgments, mischaracterisations, insinuations and outright falsehoods about our family relationships," wrote Jean Kennedy Smith, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Patricia Kennedy Lawford and Senator Edward Kennedy.

"No one is better able to judge Mother and Dad as parents than we their children," they argued. "Whatever our brothers and other family members have achieved in their own lives is because of our parents, not in spite of them."

In yesterday's article, Ham-



John Kennedy: legacy still hotly debated

ilton fired back, saying that the Kennedys had first offered to help with the book but later backed down and even tried to make him alter his "attitude".

He added that although JFK's widow, Jacqueline Onassis, had formally ceded his personal and official papers to the nation, "many documents either never reached the library, or have been withdrawn, or have been concealed from researchers... Thousands of documents be-

longing to 'open' collections have been removed or sanitised over the years to avoid the wrath of the Kennedys."

Hamilton said that while he was writing his book, the Kennedys authorised a lawyer to search "the family's secret holdings for evidence that would justify revision". He alleges that letters were discovered but they "did not contradict my interpretation. As a result, I was not even permitted to see, let alone quote, from them."

"I remain eminently willing to revise my text if the documents warrant," Hamilton concluded, and "I urge the elder Kennedys, under a new president devoted to JFK's idealistic example, to help ensure JFK's truthful place in history for a new generation of Americans." Hamilton said Edward Kennedy had praised his preliminary lectures on JFK's early years. After the lectures were published in the *New England Journal of Public Policy*, however, a lawyer for the Kennedys approached the historian and asked him to alter his attitude towards Rose and Jo Kennedy.

KYRENIA



An 8-day visit to Northern Cyprus from £595.00

Turkish North Cyprus is one of the Mediterranean's forgotten corners. Over the past 15 years whilst other areas, including the most distant shores of Turkey, have seen considerable tourist development, this northern coast of Cyprus has remained virtually untouched by the 'package tour'. The area has enormous charm, a dramatic coastline, mountain scenery with castle ruins, and a fascinating history. Tourism is still very much in its infancy here and the infrastructure is charmingly unsophisticated. But a warm welcome from the island's hospitable inhabitants, many of whom speak fluent English, is guaranteed to the visitor.

For our visits we will be based at the Dome Hotel. It is a famous hotel on the sea front in Kyrenia, just a few minutes walk from the beautiful harbour with its many excellent restaurants. Built in 1939, it is a comfortable and pleasantly old-fashioned hotel with a friendly staff. There are spacious lounges, a coffee room, bar and restaurant.

All the bedrooms have air-conditioning, refrigerator, television, in-house video and music, and private bathroom. There is a casino, a sea-water swimming pool, a sun terrace and sea swimming from the rocky headland on which the hotel is built. Nearby there are many excellent shops, selling a variety of goods.

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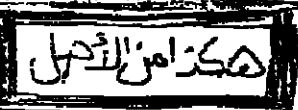
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d's fall



FROM CHRISTOPHER W.
IN CAIRO

THIRTEEN RA1 helicopters, ready to leave Cymru, were sent to Mount a reconnaissance to southern Ireland from the icy north. The mountain dog was not there in one of the others in the area of the aircraft.

THIRTEEN RA1 helicopters, ready to leave Cymru, were sent to Mount a reconnaissance of final of the area. They have been sent to survive the winter of off the last of the year. The last look at the last of the year.

The following information is provided for the purpose of identifying the person or persons who are the subject of the information:

[illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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Figure 1 is a line graph illustrating the percentage of the total sample for each age group across different years. The y-axis represents the percentage of the total sample, ranging from 0 to 100. The x-axis represents the years, with labels for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. The age groups are represented by different line styles: 0-14 (solid line), 15-24 (dashed line), 25-34 (dotted line), 35-44 (dash-dot line), 45-54 (long dashed line), 55-64 (short dashed line), 65-74 (dash-dot-dot line), and 75+ (solid line with markers). The graph shows a clear trend of aging, with the 0-14 group decreasing from about 25% in 1970 to about 10% in 2020, and the 65-74 group increasing from about 10% in 1970 to about 25% in 2020.

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Alexander Chancellor in America



The response in Washington to my Camilla transcript was unfavourably one of glee mixed with contempt

If there was quite a lot of interest in Washington this week in the inauguration of the new president, there was almost as much interest in the Camillagate tape. With great foresight, I brought the transcript with me from New York, and wherever I produced it, I became the centre of attention. At the first dinner party I attended, at the home of an American political columnist, there were three public readings of the transcript before the guests were satisfied and agreed to go home.

Especially well received (apart, of course, from the intimate bits) was the interminable goodnight sequence ("Night", "Night", "Night", "Love you for ever", "Night", "G'bye. Bye my darling", and so on), in which I played the Prince of Wales in a strangled English accent and a woman I'd never met before gave a dramatic and uncompromisingly American rendition of the part of Camilla Parker-Bowles. Gratified though I was by my sudden social success, I began to feel that it had been too cheaply bought. For nobody, apart from myself,

Are the Americans closet royalists, longing for a monarchy of their very own?

showed the slightest sympathy for the Prince in his plight. The American response to the tape was unfavourably one of boundless glee, mingled with contempt. One should not be misled by America's fascination with the British royal family, especially with Fergie and the Princess of Wales. Most Americans do not in fact like monarchies, not even ours. They look forward with at best indifference, at worst enthusiasm, to its destruction. This is not surprising, given America's historic relationship with the British Crown. But Americans show much greater heartlessness towards Prince Charles than they would towards a commoner in similar circumstances. (I am frightened that when he visits Virginia next month, he will not be able to say even "G'bye" or "Night" without provoking fits.)

Nevertheless, the inauguration of a president is commonly compared here to a coronation. The pomp and circumstance surrounding it are regal in character, and the reverence shown for the presidential office is certainly greater than that which is now shown in Britain for the institution of the monarchy. Our very own Pamela Harriman, admittedly an American citizen of long standing but nevertheless the sister of Lord Digby, was described on the cover of last week's *New York* magazine as "Queen Mother of the Clinton Court". The hat worn by Hillary Clinton for the inauguration has been condemned by unkind American commentators as the

kind of thing you might expect to find on the head of a female member of the British royal family. Are the Americans therefore, perhaps, closet monarchists? Do they secretly yearn for a royal family of their own? Not really. For all its pomp and ceremonial, the inauguration of a president remains a celebration of the people's choice. The British are the Queen's "subjects"; the Americans are President Clinton's "fellow citizens". And, as other presidents have done before him, Mr Clinton paid due tribute to the fact that he is answerable to the popular will.

Coronations are not only mercifully rare; they are also simple in their purpose, which (apart from the religious one) is to awe the populace with the splendour and antiquity of the monarchy and to convey the impression that it will endure for ever. Presidential inaugurations are both much more frequent and much more complicated. Their purpose is also to impress the populace with the grandeur of the office, but to do so with the humility appropriate to an incumbent who has been put there by the people for only four years after using very cheap trick to secure their votes.

The basic ceremony for the transference of power from one president to another is a brief and moving one, but it is hardly enough to satisfy an entire nation glued expectantly to the television set, let alone the many thousands of people who flood into Washington hoping to be entertained. So pageants and diversions have to be invented, four days of parties are arranged, and Hollywood is brought in to assist.

The main attractions this week, to which people were clamouring for tickets, were events dominated not by politicians but by the stars of stage and screen. Last Tuesday afternoon, well before sunset, the centre of Washington was awash with dinner-jackets, a kind of Glyndebourne on the Potomac.

Americans may mock, but coronations are less artificial than presidential inaugurations. Even if there is an air of mustiness about British royal ceremonial, it is at least predictable and rooted in tradition. Inaugurations, on the other hand, allow for too much originality and self-expression, and can end up seeming as if Hollywood had invented them. But who knows if there will ever be a coronation in Britain again?

The author edits *The New Yorker's* "Talk of the Town".

Jimmy Hoffa, corrupt and violent Teamster leader, has been made a hero, says Ben Macintyre

Samuel Gompers of the Cigar-makers' Union was the founding father of the American labour movement and his name is still hallowed by American unionists. His writings paint a stirring picture of working men's solidarity. "The nature of our work developed a camaraderie of the shop," he wrote. "It was a world in itself — a cosmopolitan world... while the rest worked, one of our members would read to us... and in order that the reader might not be the loser financially, each one of the men in the shop gave him a definite number of cigars."

Despite, indeed because of its precipitous decline in the last two decades, American unionism is now suffused with a nostalgia for the sort of selfless camaraderie Gompers described. This hankering for union heroism has emerged most recently in Danny DeVito's film of the life of James Riddle Hoffa, the notorious leader of the Teamsters' Union who disappeared after leaving a Detroit restaurant in 1975. *Hoffa*, with Jack Nicholson in the title role, is an uncannily accurate portrayal of how the swaggering union boss looked and talked, but a gross misrepresentation of what he was.

Hoffa emerges as a man dedicated to improving the lot of the working

Why Americans mourn union brotherhood



Hoffa goes to Hollywood

man, who risked his own life by negotiating with the Mafia in his efforts to ensure a fair deal for his union's members. In early publicity for the film, Mr DeVito argued that "Jimmy Hoffa was a man who dedicated every waking hour to benefiting people," who expended "blood and sweat and an amazing amount of pain" in his crusade for the working man. If he broke the law, suggested Mr DeVito, it was in a good cause.

What Mr DeVito conveniently plays down, is that most of the pain and blood that coloured Hoffa's reign as boss of the Teamsters was not his own. The numerous excellent books on Hoffa's life reveal a bully who plundered his own organisation, consorted with mobsters, ripped off Teamster pension funds, tampered with juries and ruthlessly crushed and ousted his enemies. Certainly, he negotiated hard and well to raise

Kennedy was on the right side of the law, and Hoffa was not. At the film's conclusion, Hoffa's mysterious fate is fictionalised into a bloody and heroic execution at the hands, we assume, of the Mafia. Theories still abound as to Hoffa's end: according to myth he was variously drowned in Lake Michigan, encased in concrete or buried in a football stadium, but thanks to Hollywood millions of people will now emerge from cinemas believing the Teamster boss was a martyr.

Over the past 12 years of Republican rule unions have moved from the centre to the periphery of American life, both politically and culturally. Beginning with the breaking of the air traffic controllers' strike, union strength and confidence has withered. In the private sector little more than 10 per cent of workers are organised, compared with just under a quarter 15 years ago.

The great demographic shift from the cities of the north-east to the suburbs of the south-west (where there exists almost no tradition of collective action), the rise in living standards, and technological change have all chipped away at union strength. The association in the public mind between organised crime and organised labour, of which Hoffa was the prime example, was a blow from which the labour movement has never recovered.

This week Bill Clinton took office owing less to organised labour than any Democratic president before him, even though he was supported by every union in the country. Of the 148 groups, bands and societies which paraded past the White House on Wednesday to welcome the new president, not one represented the unions.

For a century the ideals of men like Samuel Gompers enriched American life, enfranchising and mobilising millions. But the days when every American working man wore a union card as a badge of honour are over; turning one ruthless labour leader into a hero will not bring them back. Hoffa, of course, may still be alive; if so, he will certainly have seen the film which bears his name, and just as surely enjoyed the sensation of having rigged one final jury.

Guarding art's little gems

The best galleries are small and quixotic, but how shall we pay for them?

Why is it that every time I tramp New York's Fifth Avenue, my feet seem to lead me to the Frick, rather than the great Metropolitan Museum opposite? Why on a day off in Paris did the old *Jeu de Paume* draw me across the Tuilleries to the splendour of the Louvre? Why are the Courtauld, the Wallace, Kenwood, Dulwich somehow more satisfying on a London Sunday than that hallowed citadel in Trafalgar Square? The answer is clear. They are more intimate, less exhausting, more fun. They are art in a nutshell.

I love the world's great little galleries. One sweep of the eye can take in a feast: here a Rembrandt, there a Van Dyck, here a Goya, there a Gainsborough. Small galleries are gentler. They are appropriate to the display of framed paintings. They do not swallow them up or overpower them. I have never found it easy to apply myself to a great picture. It demands thought and effort. What on earth do the millions of glazed eyes that wander over the myriad canvases of the National Gallery really take in?

On the whole, I prefer van Eyck altarpieces to be in Ghent churches, Titian's Venetian *scuole*, Mantegna on millstones' walls and, if it comes to that, Turner prize-winners in Saseh's St John's Wood garage. But if galleries there must be, let them be like Fort Worth's Kemble or Mallory Getty, like the Frick or the Courtauld, monuments to an individual's wealth, taste and love, not to chauvinism or curatorial aggrandisement. It is worth crossing Washington for Renoir's *Boating Party* Lunch in the charming Phillips Collection, for all the Renoirs stashed on Constitution Avenue downtown.

H.L. Mencken was famously dismissive of public art galleries. He pooh-poohed the thesis that they "have some occult power to uplift the human mind and fill it with aesthetic passion". Why did anybody want to devote public money to them? They do not inculcate good taste. Look at the French, he cried. They had the finest galleries yet they couldn't match their neckties to their trousers, and their wallpaper was dreadful. I might not go that far. But as I wander the Louvre or the Metropolitan or (most exhausting of all) the Prado,

the questions do sometimes rise through the soles of my feet. Why am I doing this to myself? Which brings me to Dulwich, jewel of the Sydenham lowlands. Its famous gallery is broke. It is in the red by £200,000, almost half the annual turnover. The Clive Foundation has bailed it out this year. Next year it will be back in trouble. Despite the hyperbole of its valiant publicists, Dulwich is both diverse and handsome. Its three Rembrandts include a delightful *Saskia* and the famous "take-away" *Jacob de Gheyn*, stolen four times. There is Guido Reni's *John the Baptist*; a respectable table d'hôte of English and Dutch masters; my favourite Canaletto, of old Walton Bridge; and an array of French pictures, some marvellous and some less so. Most of the collection was bought as the basis of a Polish

Simon Jenkins

National Gallery in the early 1800s. It was rejected on the king of Poland's abdication and left to Dulwich by the wife of the dealer concerned, Mrs Desanians. (Poland has not since offered to close the deal.)

Last week the customary madrigal was doing the rounds. The parts included finding a sugar daddy, the sale of some of the pictures, more vigorous marketing, higher entrance charges, all resolved by the refrain of every arts lobbyist in the land, "and a

central government subsidy". Dulwich has lesser pictures among its 600, undisplayed in its reserve, which it could sell to raise an endowment if it wished. But when it sold a Domenichino in 1971 to pay for a security system, the outcry so terrified the trustees that they dared not consider it again. As the director, Giles Waterfield, said last week, none of those who cried out forked out. If small galleries are never to be able to sell anything at all — even works not displayed and even to other galleries who might show them — how will they ever improve their collections? But even to breathe such words brings on cardiac arrest among Britain's ever-so-delicate curatorial souls, so I let it pass.

The case against Treasury subsidy for Dulwich is strong and must be set out if it is to be countered. Dulwich is in the first but not the premier

division. It lacks a blockbuster like Ketwood's Vermeer or the Courtauld's Manet. It is not a national gallery but a good metropolitan one, like Dresden or the Hague. It should be treasured and sustained as such. But how?

At present its chief support comes from the Alleyne's College foundation, rich but undynamic. Its obligation is clear: to maintain and open to the public the gallery donated to it by Mrs Desanians in 1811. It should honour this within reason. Its present contribution of just £140,000 would appear unreasonable. But if it will not adjust its rules to offer more, then other hierarchies of obligation must be explored.

In equity, the burden should next fall on the people of Dulwich, proximate enjoyers of the gallery's delights. How they do it — through membership, local sponsorship, parish taxes, levies on estate rents — is up to them. If they in turn cannot meet the bill, next in line is Southwark Council, whose wider population must make up the bulk of visitors to the gallery. Next after Dulwich come the people of London, to whose metropolis Dulwich is such an adornment.

But wait. Apart from a small *jeune bourgeoisie* fund left from the Greater London Council, there is no agency by which London can collectively support a gallery such as Dulwich. The abolition of the GLC, while admirable in many respects, left a democratic vacuum. It is no surprise to students of the present government that this vacuum has been filled by the neo-imperialists of Whitehall. Mention to them local council housing, local schools, local museums, local police forces and they will leap up and say, "We can run that better from here." Among London's museums, Whitehall is already paying for Kenwood; Marble Hill, the Ranger's House and the Gifford and Horniman museums. Yet none of these truly qualifies as a national institution. And I would lay money they are costing the taxpayer more than they ever cost London's ratepayers. (The Horniman and Gifford are taking a cool £3 million a year in GLC grant money from the Treasury.)

I find it sad that south London, one of the great "lost cities" of England — cannot support its own gallery out of its own resources, public or private. An endowment of just £2 million would do the trick. It is there not one among the denizens of Dulwich, of Camberwell, of Tulse Hill or Streatham with enough of the ready? But if London as a whole is to be deprived of the freedom to back its museums, then the government that so deprived it must take the rough with the smooth. This one is hardly going to break the bank.

A pizza for Pisa?

HAVING helped to save a large chunk of Venice, Peter Boizot, the founder of PizzaExpress, has his sights on another moving target. The leaning tower of Pisa could be next on the energetic philanthropist's list.

If that does not work out Boizot, who since 1976 has donated 5 per cent from the sale of every Venetian pizza to the Venice in Peril appeal, would like to set up a national fund to help restore British cathedrals.

Having dreamt up the recipe for the Venetian pizza, perfecting the Pisa pizza or the Duomo dough-bread presents a new culinary challenge for Boizot. Whichever he chooses, the Venetian will be a tough pizza to follow, having raised more than £330,000 for the appeal.

Boizot — born and bred in Peterborough, educated at Cambridge — is in the process of raising considerably more for himself, through a takeover by which PizzaExpress will be quoted on the stock market, leaving him more

than £10 million the richer. Despite his reduced shareholding, Boizot is continuing as chairman and has pledged to continue to support the Venice appeal. But he is keen to do more. "I am anxious to extend the scope of the work to help other magnificent monuments. I have been discussing ways to do this for some time. The leaning tower of Pisa is definitely one option. I am also thinking of ways we could help English cathedrals, which are in a dire state of repair."

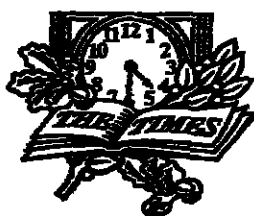
The multi-millionaire, who has been given awards by the Italian government in recognition of his work for Venice, now proposes to spend some of his new fortune on a trip to the city. "It would be nice to have a closer look at some of the restoration work we have helped to fund."

John Julius Norwich, the chairman of the appeal, was relieved that the financial support would continue. "He is our biggest benefactor by miles. I hope we will see more of him in Venice. They love

him dearly." And had Lord Norwich ever tried the pizzas which have raised so much for the appeal? "They are my favourite. Honestly."

● Much grumbling from senior citizens attending The Oldie magazine's annual awards ceremony in London, with three of the five awards going to the under-40s, led by David Gower, who at a mere 35, scooped the main prize of *Glengoyne Oldie* of the Year. An unofficial award for best barracking went to Spike Milligan, 74, who was a runner up in the campaigner of the year section — for his work against noise pollution.

I got a gold star for my sums and an article published in The Oldie



DIARY

Cold comfort

IT MAY be 80 years on but the drugs Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud are carrying as they trudge away from the South Pole are surprisingly similar to the opium and cocaine rediscovered in Captain Scott's hut in the McMurdo Sound earlier this week. Stroud has packed two opium derivatives — pethidine tablets and, for more serious injury such as broken legs, injectable morphine — but no cocaine.

According to *The Times* doctor, Thomas Stuttaford, Scott's opium would have been packed for pain relief. "But it's also pretty effective at stopping diarrhoea, as it paralyses the gut. Cocaine was used as an anaesthetic and was generally painted on before operating."

Dr Stuttaford does not believe Scott's team would have used cocaine to enhance stamina. He admits the drug "does boost performance" but adds that "cocaine has always been highly illegal. Athletes, or Antarctic explorers for that matter, would never have used it."

Given the expedition's unhappy end, there has long been speculation about a more sinister use for the drugs. "If you have someone who is dying in great pain," Dr Stuttaford says, "a mixture of both gives him a jolly approach to his maker. The cocaine brings euphoria and the opium takes away the pain."

But did Scott use the drugs to take his own life? Dr John Heap, director of the Scott Polar Research Institute finds this an insidious suggestion. "In his diary entry of March 29, 1912 he says, 'We have de-

cided to be natural'. Taking the easy way out was not the way of these characters."

Rainbow's end

AS AN early example of what is now called product placement, the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* takes an awful lot of beating. In that one film Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly gave the New York and now Bond Street jeweller the sort of aspirational image that a modern marketing director could spend a career on — and still not succeed with.

All the signs are that Tiffany is well aware of the debt of gratitude it owes Hepburn. A simple advertisement in Holly Golightly's favourite colours — black and white — in *The New York Times* yesterday commemorated the actress's life with the words: "Our huckleberry friend" taken from the film's soundtrack.

These days, of course, the store caters for both rich and not quite so rich. Board meetings in New York are expected to conclude that some sort of help for Unicef, the charity Hepburn cared about so strongly, would be appropriate.

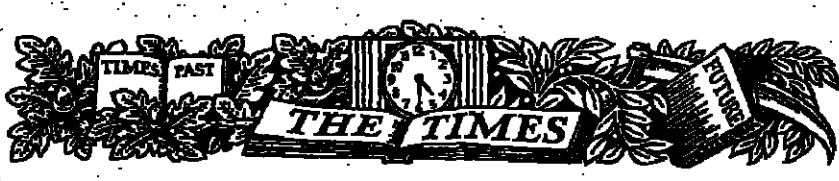


Morrell and McCarthy: the second attempt

Profile of a hostage

BANTAM Press has left nothing to chance for its publication of John McCarthy's and Jill Morrell's *Some Other Rainbow*. The photograph (above) that will grace the final cover is the second attempt — the first, which featured the couple sitting back to back and facing the camera, was rejected, apparently because McCarthy looked too sombre. Ursula

Mackenzie, Bantam's publishing director, says the first shoot was intended for publicity purposes, not for the final cover. "The final one is natural and fresh and spells freedom," McCarthy's father Paul says. "Neither John nor Jill liked the first cover. The public see them very differently from me — they'd like to see them walking off into the sunset and all that junk."



OFF THE RAILS

The government needs a coherent overall transport policy

Publication of the long-awaited rail privatisation bill is unlikely to bring an end to the confusion surrounding the government's determination to break up the British Rail behemoth. Given the complexity of the national rail network, which is made up of a series of discrete passenger and freight businesses, this is hardly surprising.

Because of the need to maintain subsidies for loss-making passenger services (currently running at almost £1 billion a year), a traditional "big bang" privatisation has been replaced by a more evolutionary injection of private sector capital and skills into Britain's ailing railway system.

No one ever said that rail privatisation was going to be easy. But the evident difficulty in making the railways more responsive to the market has seduced many critics into dismissing the government's proposals prematurely. One thing is clear. Unadulterated state ownership, in which the constraints of public spending will continue to deprive the railways of much needed new investment, is a recipe for further decline.

Under the new system, Railtrack, which will oversee railway infrastructure, will be responsible for charging operators a fee for running services. It will be accountable to a new regulatory body, which will be responsible for ensuring fair competition and protecting consumer interests. Private sector companies will be asked to bid for the right to operate trains, with the contracts going to those requiring the least subsidy.

It is not certain whether enough private sector companies will bid for the new franchises. Given that some half of their operating costs are likely to be consumed in track charges, many of those who first expressed interest in running passenger services may be forced to think again. Moreover, it is difficult to see how it will be possible to

encourage freight hauliers to switch from road to rail if operators have to pay their full share of the track costs. Road hauliers contribute to the costs of road-building and maintenance through vehicle excise and fuel duties. But because of the huge number of private cars that share the motorways with lorries, freight hauliers will bear a much higher proportion of the track costs if they switch from road to rail.

The same argument applies to private passengers and commuters. As long as passengers have to meet the full costs of building and maintaining tracks, signals and stations, the railways will be doomed to decline. Because of the number of cars, lorries and buses that can share the costs of the road network, going by road will always be cheaper, until drivers and road transport operators are forced to pay hefty taxes for the pollution and congestion they cause.

Yesterday's bill fails to address this fundamental issue. Is privatisation intended to lead to a contraction or expansion of the railways? Will the new pricing system and regulatory regime be designed to encourage freight to move off the roads, or vice versa? Will it make commuters more or less willing to abandon their cars? These are the questions that most constituents will be asking their Members of Parliament. Yet transport ministers are conspicuously silent on all these questions.

Privatisation will increase efficiency by making the costs of running the railways more transparent. But this transparency will force difficult decisions about the need to run loss-making services. Without a coherent government policy on transport, including the introduction of road user charges to eliminate the cost disparity between road and rail, another round of Beeching cuts will be inevitable.

GIRL OR BOY

The new technology of sexing babies is a moral issue

Attempting to predict the sex of an unborn child is part of the folklore of pregnancy and childbirth in most cultures. Any technique that enables couples to take control of their family planning, not only in terms of the numbers of their children but of their sex as well, seems unnatural. But many forms of technical interference with reproduction that are now commonplace would once have seemed an affront to natural order.

Advances in technology that make possible personal decisions about the sex of children have now been harnessed by a private medical service. The London Gender Clinic, which opened this week in London, is offering for a fee of £650 to arrange for customers to have a baby of the desired sex. Inevitably, and rightly, the appearance of such a clinic has given rise to controversy. There are several quite different areas for concern, all of which must be debated extensively since moral dilemmas of this kind must be settled by public discussion, and not simply relegated to the medical personnel who administer them.

The first point at issue is whether or not it is ethically acceptable for such a choice to be available at all. Many of the more outspoken critics seem to have assumed automatically that the reasons for a couple wishing to choose the sex of their next child will inevitably be frivolous: a desire for a more attractively balanced family or for a son as a matter of family pride. The notion of designer babies chosen for inappropriate reasons of vanity is repugnant. But there are more serious reasons why families may wish to conceive a child of a particular sex. As a way of dealing with the problem of congenital illnesses like haemophilia which

are only transmitted to males, it may seem to be a less objectionable solution than the present one. This is to offer a termination to a woman who is a known carrier of the defective gene when she is discovered to be carrying a boy.

The technical procedure used for sex choice is a mechanical one that involves separating male from female sperm, and then inseminating the patient with those of the preferred gender. As medical interference goes, this is a quite benign process. It raises fewer profound moral anxieties than does abortion (or even contraception for some religious groups). It does not threaten any existing life. The sense in which it may be said to be immoral is that it offers a degree of power over the fates that was previously thought beyond human scope. But all science has to some extent done that.

Once the technology exists that can offer a service for which there is clearly going to be considerable demand, any attempt to ban it outright is probably going to be futile. The political questions of whether such a service should be sold on the private market and how it is to be regulated must be examined as a matter of urgency. The possible consequences for a future society in which the balance between male and female populations was distorted are alarming. If choice of children's sex became routine, stringent measures might have to be taken to prevent parents' favouring one sex or the other in very great numbers. Prejudice and hysteria are of little use in this controversy. When a technological innovation threatens the most far-reaching social and cultural effects, it must be debated in the most knowledgeable and rational way.

VOTE STOPPED PLAY

Even cricket can no longer be run as an old boys' network

Life is a game. The idiosyncrasy of the English is that they pretend that cricket is also a game. On Wednesday the latest little episode in the long and curious story of cricket will take place, when an extraordinary general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club will be held on a vote of no confidence in the England cricket selectors. This is two days before the start of the first Test match between India and England.

The occasion of this rebellion in the heart of the establishment was the failure to select for the tour David Gower, the most stylish batsman of this generation, and England's most prolific batsman, and, to a lesser extent, the omission of Jack Russell, the best specialist wicketkeeper, in a series where spin-bowling, and therefore top wicket-keeping, can tilt the balance. Tradition states that it is always a mistake not to play your best specialist wicketkeeper. There was also the feeling that English cricket had fallen into the hands of a clique of hard and boring and badly shaven grafters who ran a fairly unsuccessful network that valued fitness more than style, preferred winning to the game, and were biased against Gower for class and other irrelevant reasons.

It is inaccurate to see this simply as a row between gentlemen and players. This is more of a battle between cavaliers and roundheads. The chairman of the England committee of the Test and County Cricket Board, Ted Dexter, was a cavalier batsman in his prime, but has become a roundhead administrator. The president of the MCC, Denis Silk, the Warden of Radley, failed to deflect the rebels from their expensive protest

by talking down to them in the Long Room at Lord's as recalcitrant fifth-formers.

At this stage in the tour there is no chance, barring calamitous injuries, of changing the team to include Gower. In any case, the MCC surrendered its administration of English cricket a quarter of a century ago, when it yielded most of its power to the International Cricket Council (the governing body), the Test and County Cricket Board, and the National Cricket Association, which fosters the game below county level. The right to select England cricket teams now rests solely with the TCCB, where the MCC has only one vote among 20 of the counties. It is devoted to a committee that includes the chairman, and the England team captain and manager, and was expanded last March to include an extra selector in Dennis Amis, to avoid the suspicion that too many choices were the whims of an old-pro network. The same old gang tends to turn up on all these bodies.

The rebels have embarrassed the cricket establishment. They will probably lose their vote on Wednesday, but in any case it is a blank vote that could never have changed the composition of the England team. All sport, especially cricket, is an irrational activity, and part of its pleasure is disagreeing with the selectors and imagining that one could do better oneself. The row is a corrective to remind old English networks to remain loose, and to clubs to remember their members who pay their wages. When the Test starts, cricketers can get back to the more serious business of watching Kapil Dev's swing and Kumble's spin.

Confidence in new prisons head

From Mr Martin Hall

Sir, There is a depressing and familiar ring to Mr F. B. O'Friel's letter (January 19) about the expectations of the Prison Governors Association following the appointment of Mr Derek Lewis, a former television chief, as Director General of the new Prison Service Agency.

Whilst echoing the need for change, it would appear that Mr O'Friel and his colleagues are only prepared to countenance it if it is on their terms and, broadly speaking, within the structure of the existing prison system. Yet surely it is obvious that it is the system itself which is in need of change, hence the real value of this imaginative and enterprising appointment by the home secretary.

There is a compelling case, if the system providing care and treatment for the offender is to be re-evaluated and modernised, not only for the new director general to sanction new ideas and recruit from a wide range of outside talents and skills, but also to expand, as prudently as possible, the fledgling privatised sector about which Mr O'Friel is so disparaging.

For too long the Prison Service has remained inward-looking and locked in a debilitating battle of strength between the small governor caste and the Prison Officers Association, as both groups struggle for supremacy in the running of our jails.

Far from suggesting that Mr Lewis has a real job on his hands to "earn the confidence... of the service" (i.e. the Prison Governors Association), Mr O'Friel and his colleagues would do better to earn the confidence of the public at large, which they could do by embracing the prospect for real change in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN HALL
(Assistant Governor, HM Borstal Feltham, 1963-6),
Merton Associates,
Merton House, 70 Grafton Way, W1.
January 19.

From Mr Julian Ellis

Sir, Mr O'Friel suggests that each prison requires a supervisory management board, now that more power is being delegated to governors. Such a board already exists.

The home secretary appoints a board of visitors to each prison, composed of individuals representing a broad cross-section of the public. The role of the board is defined in prison rule 94 as being to "satisfy themselves as to the state of the prison premises, the administration of the prison and the treatment of prisoners". Each board reports to the home secretary as necessary, at least annually.

Whilst not specifically encouraged to do so by the Home Office, in practice many prison governors use the visitors, with their broad-based skills, as a sounding board for ideas, and also to discuss problems with area and central management.

Training of board members in the direction of supervising management is not carried out at present. They are unpaid, and it would be a financially imprudent government that would begrudge an adequate training budget to people already experienced in the ways of the Prison Service when the alternative is to train and also pay fees to new supervisory management boards.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN ELLIS (Chairman),
The Association of Members of Boards of Visitors,
2 Arnold Lane,
Gedling, Nottingham.

Memorial to the Few

From Mr Leslie Jerman

Sir, I read with interest the Diary item (January 15) about the plan to erect a memorial to the Battle of Britain. We already have a national memorial, King George VI attended its dedication (as did I) in the Henry VII Chapel at Westminster Abbey in 1947.

The abbey Battle of Britain chapel has stained glass windows of all the relevant squadron badges, an altar and silver altar furnishings.

Rather than spend money on yet another memorial, would it not be better to address ourselves to the future of our young, than constantly harking back to our past, however glorious? I wonder what the Few would have said about the current plan.

I am, yours sincerely,
LESLIE JERMAN,
Rushbrook, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.
January 17.

Referendum vote

From Mr Sebastian Leach

Sir, Gerald Kaufman (letter, January 20) states that the Labour party is against holding a referendum on the Maastricht treaty and has been since that party's conference last autumn. But surely the point is that 70 per cent of the electorate are in favour of a referendum. Opinion polls seem clearly to show that on this important constitutional issue we no longer have faith in the elected to do the right thing.

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIAN LEACH,
15 Clarendon Road, W11.
January 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Time to act on London hospitals

From the Chairman of the Royal London NHS Trust

Sir, I am concerned by your reports (January 18, 21, 22) that ministers are reconsidering the recommendations contained in the Tomlinson report that the hospitals operating in central London should be rationalised. In Utopia, all the existing hospitals would be kept open and be fully modernised and lavishly staffed; all research would be fully funded and elective procedures such as hip-replacements would be available, without delay and on demand.

We do not live in Utopia. The following facts have to be borne in mind:

1. The government is running a budget deficit of almost £1 billion per week.
2. The government is committed to not increasing taxation.
3. Both the government and Professor Tomlinson agree that health care in the inner cities should be focused on primary care rather than on hospitals.
4. The internal market makes it inevitable that less work will be referred to major London teaching hospitals from outside London.

It follows that it is not possible financially to sustain the current number of hospitals in central London. All this is fully explained in Professor Tomlinson's cogent, readable and well argued report.

Unless drastic steps are taken, and taken soon, all the hospitals concerned will be operating on a less than optimal basis. Elective surgery will be carried out on a "stop/go" basis which is inefficient, poor for morale and, most importantly, distressing for patients. Specialties such as neurosurgery and cardiac surgery will continue to be spread in "penny packets" around the hospitals, which is inefficient for teaching, for research and for the care of patients.

The time is now right for a radical reorganisation along the lines of the Tomlinson report. Health care in the inner city must be built round those

hospitals best located to serve the patients. What London needs is a hospital provision for the 21st century — not one based on history and sentiment.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HAINES,
Chairman,
The Royal London NHS Trust,
The Royal London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E1.
January 22.

From Professor June Clark, President of the Royal College of Nursing

Sir, Before jubilation over the government's apparent concessions on London hospital closures becomes unbounded, I write to sound a note of warning that a watered down response to Sir Bernard Tomlinson's recommendations could leave London's health care services prey to further piecemeal and unplanned reductions in provision.

A pick-and-mix approach to the planning of the capital's health infrastructure may be politically expedient but it is neither courageous nor wise.

The Royal College of Nursing already has serious concerns over the way in which some of the closures and mergers proposed by Sir Bernard have been proceeding apace before the consultation process has been completed and without the planned injection of funding crucial to their successful implementation.

Behind the smokescreen of leak, speculation and rumour, an unbalanced and unplanned realignment of services is taking place, based not on a rational assessment of need but on an establishment power struggle between unaccountable vested interests. The casualties of this process will be the residents of London and the nurses and doctors on whom they rely for health-care provision.

Yours etc,
JUNE CLARK, President,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1.
January 20.

Bombing of Iraq

From Canon David Partridge and the Reverend Alan Race

Sir, As members of the 500-strong Clergy Against Nuclear Arms we write in complete support of Simon Jenkins' "gasp" after the missile attack on Baghdad ("A farce not a showdown", January 20).

Recent civilian casualties in and around Baghdad stir very disturbing memories of the near 200,000 estimated Iraqi dead from the Gulf war. The Kurds in the north and the beleaguered Shi'ites of the southern marshes can scarcely be relieved at the sight and sound of the war cycle beginning again.

Military and bombing actions will never solve the Iraqi problem nor bring a Middle East settlement any closer, nor indeed will the oil we so covet be any safer, let alone guaranteed, by any single missile fired. Saddam Hussein's bluff needs to be called by the global community's wit and imagination, not its "high-tech hardware".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PARTRIDGE,
ALAN RACE,
20 Church Path,
Emsworth, Hampshire.
January 20.

BA and Branson

From Mr Bill Walker, MP for North Tayside (Conservative)

Sir, As a long-standing member, now vice-chairman, of the Conservative parliamentary aviation committee, I am horrified by some of the demands for heads at British Airways.

Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall have created the world's leading airline. An airline which can generate profits during a world recession is something to be valued. It is not something to be devalued by the forced resignation of its creators.

Britain needs a strong profitable British Airways and British Airways needs Lord King and Sir Colin. Only their major competitors on world routes can benefit if either of these gentlemen resigns.

Does anyone seriously believe that their major competitors throughout the world are other British airlines? If they do, then they have little knowledge of world civil aviation.

Yours sincerely,
BILL WALKER,
House of Commons,
January 20.

Debt to Egypt

From Mr Anthony Hore

Sir, Those who share Simon Jenkins' concern about the return of ancient monuments to their rightful owners ("Dead and dismembered on the Nile", January 9, letter, January 19) may like to know that, following a visit last summer to Phile in Upper Egypt, I wrote to the National Trust, which now owns Kingston Lacy in Dorset, suggesting that the obelisk there should be returned to Egypt.

The Trust replied that it is not prepared to do this, even though the obelisk has nothing whatsoever to do with our culture or heritage, on the grounds that it is under a moral

obligation to preserve property bequeathed to it in perpetuity.

Whilst I respect that argument, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Trust — and, to the extent that Egypt today assumes such importance in Middle Eastern politics, the country — is missing a trick.

What a splendid gesture it would be if the National Trust, as part of its centennial celebrations in 1995, were to offer to return the Kingston Lacy obelisk to its rightful and spectacular position at the gateway to the Temple of Isis.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HORE,
Lane End, Hookley Lane,
Elstead, Surrey.

Putting a value on human lives

From Mr Justice Sheen

Sir, The loss of the Braer had serious consequences (letters, January 9, 11, 15, 18). Fortunately these did not include any loss of human life. Those who were affected have been promised compensation. In due course life will go on as before. A public enquiry with wide terms of reference has been ordered.

In August 1989 the *Marchioness* sank in the river Thames with the loss of 51 lives, mostly young. For the bereaved and others affected, life will never be the same again. Naturally they wanted a public enquiry, but it was not thought appropriate to hold one. Have we got our priorities right?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SHEEN,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, WC2.

Sovereign remedy?

From Dr J. K. Aronson

Sir, The Taxol alluded to in Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* (Miss Howe's letter, January 19) was a proprietary medicine marketed during the 1930s for the treatment of constipation by Laboratoires Lobbica of Paris. It contained "poudre de maqueuse intestinale, extrait biliaire, agar agar, ferments lactiques". The intestinal mucus (source delicately unspecified) was later replaced by pancreatin and extract of aloes.

Yours sincerely,
J. K. ARONSON,
MRC Clinical Pharmacology Unit,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Woodstock Road, Oxford.
January 21.

From Mr Keith Jenkins

Sir, Miss Howe may be interested to know that Taxol was imported into this country by an Anglo-French company (Wilcox Jozouat) in the first half of this century. The last reference in my possession was in the 1958 edition of the *Extra Pharmacopoeia* (pp.1234-7). Under the heading "Sodium Tauroglycocholate and bile salts". The dose was 1-4 tablets daily before meals.

Taxol was purchased mainly by expatriate Frenchmen and British gourmets who enjoyed rich food while the French doctors of the day recommended *la cuisine Anglaise* as a concomitant diet. Happily taxol, found in the yew (*Taxus baccata*), will not be sold to the public by pharmacists.

Yew trees were originally grown within the confines of churchyards to keep them away from cattle. It was only when their branches grew over the wall into a meadow that cattle chewed the leaves and were occasionally poisoned fatally.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH JENKINS,
Whichwell Cottage,
26 South Street,
Wendover, Buckinghamshire.
January 22.

From Mr Hugh V. Roberts

Sir, Maxim de Winter, of *Rebecca* fame, was not alone in preferring Eno's Fruit Salts, an effervescent preparation containing tartaric acid, whose attractive and colourful wrappers portrayed an abundance of grapes — the tenuous connection was that tartaric acid was once made from cream of tartar, which was originally prepared from the deposit scraped from the inside of wine barrels.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH V. ROBERTS,
15 Hill Cottages,
Rosedale East,
Pickering, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Andrew Haynes

Sir, Perhaps it is just as well that Maxim preferred Eno's. One of Taxol's main ingredients was extract of bile, a substance which the ill-humoured Max seems not to have lacked.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HAYNES,
78 Buns Lane, Mill Hill, NW7.

From Lady Katherine Farrell

Sir, I fancy Maxim de Winter's irritability was due to constipation — hence the need for Taxol pills: a most excellent laxative, infinitely more agreeable in those days than the dreaded drink of senna pods, and just as effective.

Yours faithfully,
KATHERINE FARRELL,
Cutmill House,
Wallington, Oxfordshire.

From Dr Victor Purvis

Sir, My father, a parson, never went to bed without saying his prayers; but the taking of two Taxol tablets had priority. I still have the bottle.

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR PURVIS,
Upper Town Farm,
Clifton Hampden,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 24

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

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A quarter of life firms fail to meet standards

■ Lauto is placing greater emphasis on dealing with complaints, which have increased by 17 per cent, forming a special section to deal with worst cases

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A QUARTER of the life companies and friendly societies inspected by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation in the year to July failed to meet the compliance standards laid down in the Financial Services Act.

Many of those judged to be "broadly adequate" still needed to bring their systems up to standard, the regulator said in its annual report of monitoring and enforcement activities for 1991-2.

During the period, 136 companies were visited. In some cases, problems were so serious that companies were asked to discontinue recruiting or giving investment advice until Lauto was satisfied that new procedures ensured protection for investors. "Of the remaining 25 per cent, shortcomings often came from lack of understanding rather than deliberate neglect," said Kit Jebens, Lauto's chief executive.

But the regulator felt that, five years into the self-regulatory regime, a 25 per cent failure rate was still too high. In 54 cases, companies were required to bring systems up to standard. Some members were also told to review their records, to check that details supplied by salesmen on customers were correct and to take remedial action where investors were found to be prejudiced.

In four cases, disciplinary proceedings were started. One of these was Scottish Widows, which was fined £120,000 in December for failing to train and supervise tied agents properly. The company had to examine all policies sold over the four years from the implementation of the Act, to ensure

that customers had not been sold the wrong products.

In one case, Lauto says, a company put right most of the problems identified, only to allow other shortcomings to arise in the process. The senior management of the offending company were called to Lauto's headquarters for interview.

One company escaped disciplinary proceedings when the parent company changed its senior management, and committed substantial financial resources to putting things right.

During the year, 19 formal investigations were carried out, ten resulted in disciplinary proceedings. Four of these members were asked to improve their procedures. The next series of inspections starts next month and Lauto has decided to put more emphasis on dealing with the rising number of complaints. These increased by 17 per cent to 2,000 during the year.

A new section has been formed in Lauto's enforcement division to handle the worst cases. The monitoring committee has also established procedures to help large groups of investors who have been victims of rogue company representatives. These groups have involved up to 450 clients, who cannot always get compensation because of obstacles under present rules.

An independent survey of details compiled by companies on potential clients had shown that 80 per cent were now acceptable, Mr Jebens said. That compared with only 25 per cent in 1988.

Comment, page 21



Fruits of success: Peter Johnson, chairman and managing director of Park Food, packs a hamper that pleases

Park Food sales advance

WHILE much of the country tries to pay off debts from last Christmas, customers of Park Food Group, Britain's biggest provider of food hampers, are looking forward to next, and sales per customer are running at more than 10 per cent ahead (Martin Waller writes).

Normal seasonal losses before tax at Park improved to £3.69 million, against £4.39 million, in the half-year to end-September, as the group swung from a deficit to a net cash position over the same period. The interim dividend is doubled to 2p, and Peter Johnson, the chairman and managing director, said the board had decided to reduce dividend cover from 2.5 times to about twice.

On brokers' estimates of pre-tax profits of £9.5 million this year, this would suggest a total payment increased from 3.2p to close to 5.4p, and Park shares jumped 7p to 225p before settling back to 214p after profit taking set in.

The Christmas 1992 season saw a 10.5 per cent rise in the amount the average customer spent with Park Food.

BA issues code of conduct to staff

By COLIN CAMPBELL

BRITISH Airways, in the wake of what it has admitted was a "regrettable activity" in its dealings with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic group, yesterday issued a Code of Business Conduct to which all staff are expected to adhere.

BA management is, meanwhile, considering what action to take against "a very small number of employees" whose "regrettable conduct" gave Mr Branson cause to take legal action against BA.

Lord King of Warrnaby, BA's chairman, has already apologised formally to Mr Branson, and BA's internal enquiry conducted by Linklaters & Paines, its solicitor, has cleared all senior BA board members of being implicated in a "dirty tricks" campaign against Virgin Atlantic.

However, Linklaters & Paines did note there had been "regrettable conduct" that was confined to a relatively small number of unconnected incidents involving "a very small number of employees".

BA yesterday refused to be drawn on the identity of the "small number of employees", nor would the airline say when any action will be taken.

BA's business code, issued to all staff by Sir Colin Marshall, the group's deputy chairman and chief executive, outlines a charter of best business practice, and includes guidance on "fairness, integrity, openness and honesty".

Sir Colin said it was important to set out the standards in the form of a charter and to provide "a framework of governing values", and establish the norms of business behaviour throughout the company.

Analysts said the "Virgin affair" will overshadow BA as long as uncertainty about possible further legal action in America remains unresolved. BA shares yesterday, were in demand on both sides of the Atlantic on consideration of BA's deal with USAir and rose 10p to 275p.

The group's third quarter profits statement is due next month.

Capital in agreed bid at Midlands

By PHILIP PANGALOS

CAPITAL Radio, the London commercial radio group, has made a 130p-a-share agreed bid for Midlands Radio, valuing it at £17.7 million.

Apart from widening its coverage, Capital says Midlands will enhance its ability to benefit from any upturn in overall advertising revenues.

Richard Eyre, Capital's managing director, said: "We need to consolidate our position as the industry grows and changes. Midlands is financially sound and geographically adjacent: it's a very good fit. It's a very sweet deal."

Capital says that it has already received the backing of 51.7 per cent of Midlands shareholders. Capital's offer has a share alternative, for Midlands shareholders, but this will be limited to a maximum of 4.9 million Capital shares, representing about 50 per cent.

The offer will be financed entirely out of Capital's cash resources which will be at least £9 million after the deal.

Persimmon and Tay sell homes to BES scheme

TWO Yorkshire housebuilders have found a novel way of moving £20 million of unwanted new homes off their books, by selling them to a Business Expansion Scheme that will rent them out and offer tax advantages to investors who fund the purchases. The Ridings Companies, four separate companies each raising £5 million, will buy £15 million of new stock off Persimmon and the balance off Tay Homes and rent them on assured tenancies. In all, about 300 houses and flats will be bought.

Investors paying the top rate of tax will receive 11.9 per cent net over five years, a return underwritten by the two companies whose obligations are supported by a guarantee from the Bank of Scotland. They will also have the chance of cashing in their investment after six months for 71p for every £1 invested, along with the appropriate tax relief. After five years, the homes will be sold in the open market, or to Persimmon and Tay, and the returns distributed to investors. The prospectus is sponsored by Capital for Companies, part of BWD Securities, the financial services group. This is thought to be the first BES scheme to concentrate on new homes and to provide a guaranteed return.

Norbain advances

ACQUISITIONS lifted pre-tax profits at Norbain Electronics, which distributes industrial closed circuit television and access control equipment, from £33,000 to £224,000 in the six months to the end of October. Earnings rose from 0.33p to 2.16p a share. Again, the company, is not paying an interim dividend. Turnover rose from £5.75 million to £7.6 million, resulting in a trading profit of £336,000, up from £135,000. Norbain said that margins of its own-brand product line decreased temporarily after the devaluation of sterling, but were recovering now. Sales to mainland Europe, particularly Germany, were expanding.

First Maryland rises

FIRST Maryland Bancorp, the American subsidiary of Allied Irish Banks, has increased its net income for 1992 by 23 per cent to \$92.5 million. Earnings for the final quarter edged up from \$23.9 million to \$24.1 million. First Maryland reported improved net interest margins, higher levels of non-interest income, and lower provisions for possible credit losses. Its return on average assets improved from 0.96 per cent in 1991, to 1.03 per cent, and the return on average equity improved from 13.46 per cent to 14.19 per cent. Charles Cole, president, said: "This performance reflects a compound earnings growth rate of 20 per cent since 1983."

Fisher offer accepted

BERISFORD International, the property and commodities group, confirmed it has agreed to accept Albert Fisher's offer for Berisford's 19.8 per cent investment in Hunter Saphir. Provided Thursday's recommended \$29.3 million offer by Albert Fisher for Hunter Saphir, the fellow food group, becomes unconditional at the currently agreed price, the sale by Berisford will generate proceeds of £6.1 million. That represents a £2.1 million surplus over the carrying value of the Hunter Saphir investment in Berisford's last published accounts. Berisford shares eased 4p to 26p, while Albert Fisher rose 5p to 74p and Hunter Saphir firmed 1p to 43p.

Horwood leaves MGN

VIC Horwood, former chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, has formally resigned from the board of the group and its subsidiaries. It was announced. Mr Horwood, who joined Mirror Group Newspapers more than 30 years ago, relinquished all his executive responsibilities last November, and was widely expected to leave the board. He is thought to have voted against the recent appointment of David Montgomery, the former editor of Today and the News of the World, as chief executive.

Robertson wins TVS

PAT Robertson, right, the American TV evangelist, has clinched his £56.5 million takeover of TVS Entertainment. International Family Entertainment beat the 75 per cent consent level among TVS preference shareholders that it set itself as a condition of proceeding with the deal. IFE wants to launch a "family-oriented" satellite and cable company in Britain. It is interested in programmes held by MTM, the US offshoot of TVS, including Hill Street Blues and St Elsewhere.



John Crosland

A REPORT yesterday of the Department of Trade and Industry enquiry into companies linked with Suter wrongly identified John Crosland as a non-executive director of Suter. Mr Crosland was a director of Robert Fleming & Co, the merchant bank advising Suter, and was described by the DTI inspectors as "clearly a man of the highest integrity". We apologise to Mr Crosland for the error.

BANK OF SCOTLAND'S MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT NOW GIVES

UP TO 6.96% GROSS CAR* 6.75% GROSS*

BALANCE	£2,500-£24,999	£25,000-£249,999	£250,000+
GROSS CAR %	5.79%	6.04%	6.96%
GROSS %	5.64%	5.88%	6.75%
NET CAR %	4.31%	4.50%	5.18%
NET %	4.23%	4.41%	5.06%

*Full terms and conditions are available on request. GROSS - Applied rate for interest payable when income tax does not require to be deducted. NET - Applied rate of interest payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the basic rate. Non-deductible non-resident interest (tax deferred). CAR (Compounded Annual Rate) - This is the Gross or Net rate applied to take account of interest applied during the year remaining in the account and itself earning interest. Rates subject to variation but correct at time of going to press.

*On balances of £250,000 and above.

AND MUCH MORE

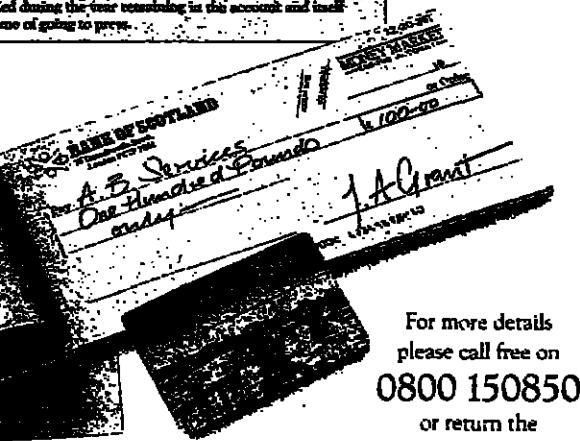
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TT 231/93

GPA seeking \$1 bn debt rescheduling

By PATRICIA TEHAN

GPA, the Irish aircraft leasing group, has made proposals to its 100 banks for a rescheduling of \$1 billion of its \$5 billion debt.

The move comes after months of talks with its banks and aircraft suppliers. The restructuring package includes commitments from three of GPA's four suppliers to reschedule more than half the \$4.9 billion aircraft deliveries due in 1993 and 1994.

Maurice Foley, deputy chairman, said GPA had reached agreement with Boeing, Airbus Industrie and Fokker to reorganise their order books, deferring many deliveries until after 1994 and cancelling others. So far, GPA has failed to persuade McDonnell Douglas to act in a similar way.

Mr Foley said under the proposals put to the banks, the company had "achieved what

we need to achieve to proceed with our plan". GPA hopes its proposals, to defer \$1 billion of loan amortisations and repayments due from December 1992, to September 30, 1994, to late 1996, will be implemented by the end of the first quarter. It hopes to agree new financial and business covenants governing its core facilities so that they are linked to cash flow, instead of profits, and to extend existing covenant waivers during the approval process.

Once definitive agreements have been reached with its banks, GPA plans to raise \$200 million of new equity through a convertible preference share issue. That will be offered to existing shareholders on a rights basis. Nomura, which took the lead in GPA's failed \$800 million share issue last summer, will handle the issue.

GOVERNMENT securities enjoyed another firm start, with investors still pinning their hopes on an imminent cut in bank base rates. But prices were unable to maintain their early momentum.

Dealers think this week's gloomy unemployment figures and further weakness in the pound have put further pressure on the Chancellor to cut rates. As a result, prices were again trading at the top

end of the range for much of session before turning sharply easier before the close. On the futures market, the March series of the long gilt ended seven ticks down at £100¹³/₃₂ after touching

£100¹³/₃₂. A total of 25,193 contracts were completed. At the longer end of the cash market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 finished four ticks easier at £101¹/₃₂, while in shorts Exchequer 9¹/₂ per cent 1998 finished a couple of ticks lighter at £110¹³/₃₂. The stock Treasury 8¹/₂ per cent 2007 B traded on a "when issued" basis ended at £37¹³/₃₂ in its partly paid form.

1992/93 High Low Stock				1992/93 High Low Stock			
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
104 ¹ / ₃₂	99 ¹ / ₃₂	104 ¹ / ₃₂	100 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂	109 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂
105 ¹ / ₃₂	100 ¹ / ₃₂	105 ¹ / ₃₂	101 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂
106 ¹ / ₃₂	101 ¹ / ₃₂	106 ¹ / ₃₂	102 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂
107 ¹ / ₃₂	102 ¹ / ₃₂	107 ¹ / ₃₂	103 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂
108 ¹ / ₃₂	103 ¹ / ₃₂	108 ¹ / ₃₂	104 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂
109 ¹ / ₃₂	104 ¹ / ₃₂	109 ¹ / ₃₂	105 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂
110 ¹ / ₃₂	105 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂	106 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂
111 ¹ / ₃₂	106 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂	107 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂
112 ¹ / ₃₂	107 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂	108 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂
113 ¹ / ₃₂	108 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂	109 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂
114 ¹ / ₃₂	109 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂
115 ¹ / ₃₂	110 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂
116 ¹ / ₃₂	111 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂	122 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂	122 ¹ / ₃₂	122 ¹ / ₃₂
117 ¹ / ₃₂	112 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂	123 ¹ / ₃₂	122 ¹ / ₃₂	123 ¹ / ₃₂	123 ¹ / ₃₂
118 ¹ / ₃₂	113 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂	124 ¹ / ₃₂	123 ¹ / ₃₂	124 ¹ / ₃₂	124 ¹ / ₃₂
119 ¹ / ₃₂	114 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂	125 ¹ / ₃₂	124 ¹ / ₃₂	125 ¹ / ₃₂	125 ¹ / ₃₂
120 ¹ / ₃₂	115 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂	126 ¹ / ₃₂	125 ¹ / ₃₂	126 ¹ / ₃₂	126 ¹ / ₃₂
121 ¹ / ₃₂	116 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂	127 ¹ / ₃₂	126 ¹ / ₃₂	127 ¹ / ₃₂	127 ¹ / ₃₂
122 ¹ / ₃₂	117 ¹ / ₃₂	122 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂	128 ¹ / ₃₂	127 ¹ / ₃₂	128 ¹ / ₃₂	128 ¹ / ₃₂
123 ¹ / ₃₂	118 ¹ / ₃₂	123 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂	129 ¹ / ₃₂	128 ¹ / ₃₂	129 ¹ / ₃₂	129 ¹ / ₃₂
124 ¹ / ₃₂	119 ¹ / ₃₂	124 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂	130 ¹ / ₃₂	129 ¹ / ₃₂	130 ¹ / ₃₂	130 ¹ / ₃₂
125 ¹ / ₃₂	120 ¹ / ₃₂	125 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂	131 ¹ / ₃₂	130 ¹ / ₃₂	131 ¹ / ₃₂	131 ¹ / ₃₂
126 ¹ / ₃₂	121 ¹ / ₃₂	126 ¹ / ₃₂	122 ¹ / ₃₂	132 ¹ / ₃₂	131 ¹ / ₃₂	132 ¹ / ₃₂	132 ¹ / ₃₂
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128 ¹ / ₃₂	123 ¹ / ₃₂	128 ¹ / ₃₂	124 ¹ / ₃₂	134 ¹ / ₃₂	133 ¹ / ₃₂	134 ¹ / ₃₂	134 ¹ / ₃₂
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BUSINESS PROFILE: Brian Winterflood

Self-made man who inspires fear and love

The City's champion of small firms has spent his life burying an unhappy childhood, Carol Leonard discovers

Brian Winterflood, chairman and founder of Winterflood Securities, the market-maker that specialises in smaller company shares, is one of the best-known names and faces in the City.

In regional industrial centres such as Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Cardiff, his is one of the few City names bandied around by the men who run those smaller firms. For in many instances, his is the only firm that makes a market in their shares, ensuring them access to the capital markets. Larger securities houses have withdrawn from this "smaller" end of the market, claiming that it is impossible for them to cover their costs. Winterflood, in contrast, has championed their cause in quarters — such as the Stock Exchange — where they would otherwise lack a voice. More important still, he consistently shows a

profit. Some establishment figures in the Square Mile roll their eyes when they see Winterflood coming and knock him, unfairly, for being a self-publicist. Invariably, they are people who have not achieved as much. Others shy away from him because they still harbour bruises from share transactions long ago in which they came off worse than he did.

His father, an alcoholic, died in poverty on a caravan site. Winterflood was not at the funeral

of three children, disliking both his parents, left school at 16, and pieced it all together on his own.

"It was a very unhappy family life," he says. His father, a bus driver who, after the war, opened two snack bars in west London, became an alcoholic. "He finally drank all his money away." It meant that Winterflood, born in East Ham but brought up in Uxbridge, Middlesex, had to leave his school, Frays College, with no qualifications, because his father was unable to pay the fees. "He was a vain man and a womaniser. I can feel that too, because I do like women — I don't like being one of the boys — but he was very cruel to my mother and I remember being scared of him as a child. . . . In the end I threw him out of the house, when I came back on leave from national service. I said this could not go on any longer and I got rid

of him." His father died penniless on a caravan site and Winterflood refused to go to the funeral. "I can't stand hypocrisy. I told the people on the caravan site to send me the bill and then to burn the caravan and everything in it. It was the only way I could rid myself of him."

It is similarly characteristic of Winterflood that years later, when he received his first City bonus payment, he went back to Frays College to repay the fee money his father still owed. "But the school had closed down," he laughs. "That's what you call jobbers' luck. Luck or not, tough negotiator or not, he is a man with a conscience. He never forgets."

Watching his father propping up pub bars made Winterflood wary of alcohol. "I have only been drunk three times and on two of those



Family happiness: Brian and Doreen Winterflood have enjoyed a model relationship, and their three children still live at home

occasions I went and hid." It has also made him distrustful of friendship. He has lots of friends but these are different, he explains, to what he calls "real" friends. "I can count those on the fingers of one hand. I suppose my father's behaviour did influence me. All that fellow, well met stuff. Yet when he was down on his uppers, there was no one. It made me realise how brittle human relationships can be. It takes me a while to get to be close to people, I like people to prove themselves to me."

He is envious of people who have had more extensive educations. "I often feel I would have loved the experience of going to university. There is something about people who have gone to university that I covet, that I envy."

His opinion of his mother is little

better than that of his father. "She wasn't a very nice woman, you know," he complains. She regarded him as the favourite, the blue-eyed boy. "I resented that. . . . It means that I never get emotional about people, because I think it's unfair to treat any one individual differently. She was an uneducated woman and perhaps she couldn't cope. But for that reason I have always made sure that I treated each of my three children — Guy, 22, Mark, 19, and Sarah, 18 — equally. I love them all dearly."

He strove to ensure that their childhoods were quite different to his. The Winterfloods' home in Wimbledon is large, comfortable and attractive, the swimming pool in the garden is heated all year round, they have a second home in Corsica and they all still live and

holiday together, in a variety of far-flung, exotic locations. Winterflood met his wife, Doreen, when he was 20 and married her nine years later (her father, coincidentally, was a bus conductor). Their marriage is particularly sound. "She is the only woman I have said 'I love you' to," he says.

When it comes to religion, like morals, he has thought it all through for himself. "I'm agnostic really," he says. "But I do have a slight doubt. Doreen's father was an out-and-out atheist but on his deathbed he asked to be included in the church. That made me think. I have utter respect for people's religions, they are the backbone of any civilisation, but I got married in a register office and none of our children have been christened. I don't like to be a hypocrite." His

management style is similarly forthright. "You have to tell people where they stand and what you mean," he says.

He employs 37 people, almost all of whom have been with him since Winterflood Securities was started five years ago, and many of them for much longer. "Everyone here knows what is going on. It's all very open. They all know what the profit and loss is." But for all his openness, Winterflood, by nature, plays cards that really matter to him extremely close to his chest.

Winterflood joined the stockbroker Greener Dreyfus as a messenger in 1953, but switched to market-making at Bisgood Bishop when he realised that, coming from "the wrong side of the tracks", he could never build up a private client base as a stockbroker. Unlike others who sold their partnerships out to larger corporate structures, he has, he says, never made a fortune. Before the collapse of the property market he might have been "just about" a millionaire "with everything added together, but not now" he does, however, enjoy a good lifestyle. He eats in the best restaurants, serves champagne at home, drives a BMW. He is renowned for being a dapper dresser and is an avid West End theatre-goer. "I wouldn't enjoy living out in the country. I'm more of a flash West End type. I like a bit of sophistication."

Winterflood is not, and does not want to be, part of the so-called establishment. He can influence events more effectively from its fringes. He is not, he says, a member of any club. "I'm not a joiner." Instead he does his own thing, in his own way, and invariably ends up leading others. In the City he frequents the exclusive City Club, as a non-member, and remarks: "They tolerate me there because they have to." Subconsciously, he still sees the world as "them and us."

He shuns the idea of retirement, saying he wants to carry on working until he drops. He will go down in City folklore as a popular hero, a man of the people, a champion of small businesses. Yet for all his popularity there is something about Winterflood that people fear, something deep within him that distances him from people — and from his own childhood. It is a steely, protective barrier, wrought out of sheer discipline, which is all but impenetrable. Winterflood nods in agreement when I suggest this. "It's true," he says. Perhaps someone should now tell him that sufficient time has elapsed for him to start chipping that barrier away.

Consultants judge British Coal closure plans as reasonable

Independent reports place responsibility for saving pits on government, writes Ross Tienan

BRITISH Coal made a "reasonable" assessment of future coal demand and of which pits should close, according to four independent reports published by the trade department yesterday.

The conclusions place the responsibility for saving any of the 31 pits and 30,000 miners' jobs under threat firmly on the shoulders of ministers, who will have to decide whether to intervene in energy markets to enlarge the market for coal.

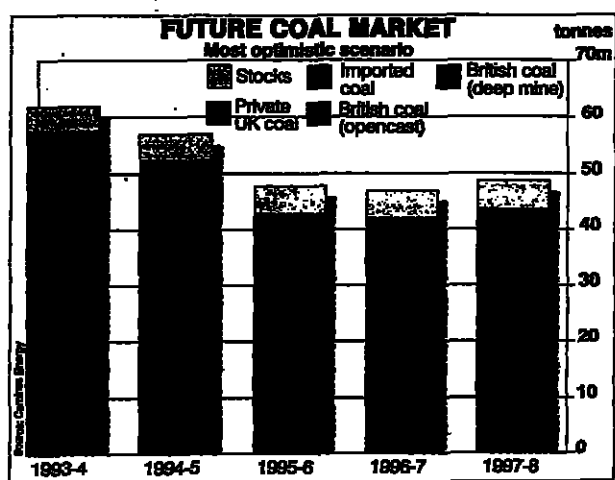
Ministers are urged to introduce legislation as soon as possible to enable working practices to be reformed so that miners work fewer, but longer shifts, helping British Coal improve efficiency.

The four reports consider three aspects of the coal crisis. The largest, from John T. Boyd, the American mining consultant, looks at scope for cost savings and the prospects for 20 pits that British Coal plans to retain, and 21 earmarked for closure.

A second, conducted by Caminus Energy, considers the likely market for coal without government intervention. Consultants Ernst & Young and PIMS, in separate studies, analyse the scope for British Coal to make savings by improving its organisational efficiency.

Two further technical reports that will broaden the debate have yet to be completed. A study by Boyd's of ten pits already closed will not be ready until March 15. However, a report by Ernst & Young into the economics of power from nuclear plants, which are heavily subsidised, is now being finalised and will be available soon.

Backbench MPs will also have a strong influence on the government. A report from the



employment select committee, published on Thursday, called for the employment department to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of implications of mine closures.

The trade and industry committee, in a report out next Friday, is expected to recommend a temporary subsidy, obtained by reducing support for nuclear power, to provide a breathing space in which British Coal could cut costs so that

signed to illustrate the maximum and minimum markets likely to be available. The analysis is complicated by superimposing a second high and low case for British Coal's ability to cut costs.

The "high" coal sales scenario assumes an international price of 121p per gigajoule of coal and completion of 9 gigawatts of new gas fired power stations replacing coal fired plants. It also assumes

'Ministers are urged to introduce legislation to enable miners to work fewer, but longer shifts, helping improve efficiency'

its products are more competitive. Once ministers have reviewed all of these studies, and the recommendations of an internal trade department enquiry, they are expected to publish a white paper in early to mid-February setting out government plans for the coal industry.

Caminus Energy was commissioned to look at markets available to British Coal in the five years to March 1998, when all distortions in the UK electricity market, including restrictions on competition and the nuclear subsidy, are set to end. That is the period for which coal sale contracts are now being negotiated with generating companies. The conclusions illustrate the pressures that lead to the closure decision. Caminus developed two alternative scenarios de-

British Coal's costs could be cut to 115p gigajoule.

At the lower extreme, Caminus assumes coal prices of just 90p a gigajoule and completion of almost 12 gigawatts of gas plant.

However the sums are worked, British Coal faces a steep decline in its market. At best, total British Coal sales in the year to March 1998 are projected to have fallen from 87.7 million tonnes in 1991-2 to 53.9 million tonnes in 1997-8. That would require deep-mine production of just 39.9 million tonnes (71 million tonnes last year).

In the worse case scenario, however, British Coal sales would slump to just 22.8 million tonnes, requiring deep-mine output of only 13.4 million tonnes. That is nowhere near enough to support

the 20 pits British Coal plans to retain.

Many of the recommendations contained in the John T. Boyd report echo proposals contained in an earlier, more limited study for the DTL. Age and geology meant British Coal deep-mine production costs would never match those in main exporting countries such as America and Australia, which produced at a third or half the cost. In response to the decline in its market, British Coal's closure plan appeared reasonable.

However, "opportunity exists within British Coal mines for significant cost reductions (and improved safety and productivity) by the application of modern technology" and by extending working shifts from 7½ to 8 hours. The Point of Ayr colliery in North Wales should stay open because it has adopted the cost-saving room and pillar system of mining.

Boyd's calculated the scope for cost improvements and set this against the likely selling price from each colliery to produce a ranking of all 41 pits studied. Daw Mill colliery, near Coventry, emerges as Britain's best pit.

The consultant concludes that if all their recommendations are implemented, 13 of the 21 pits earmarked for closure are likely to be profitable. They are Maltby, Hatfield, Prince of Wales, Frickley and Rossington, all in south Yorkshire, Point of Ayr in north Wales, Wearmouth in the North East and the Midlands pits of Silverdale, Bentley, Shirebrook, Bilthorpe, Calverton and Clippstone. However, the consultant says collieries are not viable if there is no market for output, however cheap.

Ernst & Young calculated that by trimming 3,000 from its 7,000 white-collar staff, moving the head office from London to the coalfields, and reducing the cumbersome regional management structure, the corporation could cut its annual £270 million management overhead by between £70 million and £100 million.

PIMS said savings of £90 million a year should be available.

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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 23 1993

Little comfort from statistics

It was positive news, the men from the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation insisted yesterday when revealing appalling statistics about the failure of life companies to comply with the Financial Services Act and salesmen to take proper details of their clients before selling policies.

The positive aspect was that the figures were much worse before the Act came into operation. Now only one in five of the records kept by salesmen about the investments they have sold are adequate, according to an independent survey. In 1988, three quarters of fact finds failed to pass muster. Of course, the investors who were sold the wrong policies by these careless salesmen have no redress, as these were before the Act, so they may be less pleased with the current statistics.

The poor standards are a clear indication of the cavalier attitude of life companies concerned with maintaining and increasing their share of the market above all else. The Financial Services Act meant strong competition between in-

surance companies for a distribution network. The need to protect investors came second best, if that far up their list of priorities. While one in four of the life companies and friendly societies failed the inspection visits conducted by Lauto in the year to July, they now at least want to get it right, said Kit Jebens, chief executive. The investing public must sincerely hope that they succeed.

Of those that passed, none came through with flying colours but the remedial work needed varied from minor changes to months of work. Some of the firms that did not pass were told to discontinue recruitment and to stop giving investment advice until Lauto was happy.

Next month Lauto will start its next cycle of visits and expects standards to be a lot higher. If they are not, disciplinary action will follow swiftly. However, it has taken the wise precaution of setting up a



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

special unit to carry out "intensive care" visits in an attempt to get its worst members onto the right tracks.

If only the public knew who they were, they could give them a wide berth to allow them more time to get their systems right.

Almost there

Democracy is almost alive and well at the Leeds. This week an investing member polled 40,000 votes in his third attempt to win a seat on the board of the fifth largest society. Jim French

was not far behind Malcolm Barr, the society's president and if his progress continues he might make it next year.

He has doubled the size of his vote last year when he was not allowed to include an election address in the voting papers because he missed a deadline applied to outside candidates but not to the nominees of the board.

That misunderstanding will not happen again to Mr French or any other candidates who want to stand for the board. Included in a new 91-page Leeds rulebook, which was

given the go-ahead on Monday, the deadline for independent candidates to submit an election address is given.

It has not been easy for Mr French to get this far. Members need to get the nomination of 50 people who have maintained a balance of £100 in an account for two years.

Imagine the looks that candidates receive when they accost savers outside branches on a Saturday and ask whether they have £100 in their account.

To then go on and ask them to check whether they have not dropped below that minimum for at least two years is intruding too far into the privacy of the voting members.

In the first year Mr French had a lot more signatures than the 50 minimum but when accountants analysed the accounts of his supporters many had dipped below the qualify-

ing amount during the two years.

It was a similar struggle for Sheila Hayward at the Nationwide when she became the first independent member of its board in 1988. In 1991 she got the highest vote of all the existing board members seeking re-election.

Staff at the second largest building society speak warmly of her contribution to the society and how she, among all the non-executive directors, is most frequently seen at the headquarters in Swindon.

The society also owes a debt of gratitude to the Rev Vivian Singh, who campaigned in the spring and summer of 1991 to change the society's rules on obsolete savings accounts. His resolution failed at the annual meeting when the proxies were brought to bear.

But the Nationwide has mended its ways as a result of his campaign. The Rev Singh failed to win a seat on the board last summer but his campaign on behalf of its membership continues. Nominations for the Nationwide board have to be in by April 4.

Housing market recovery stalled as thousands of homeowners fall behind with mortgages

Higher repayments for those in arrears

By Sara McConnell

MORTGAGE arrears figures to be released by lenders next week will appear to be worse because interest rates have fallen. While people may be able to cut arrears a little because their monthly payments have fallen considerably, they may appear to be more months behind in their payments because of the way lenders work out the statistics.

This could trigger a series of reminder letters from lenders asking borrowers to pay off some of their arrears, said Richard Bolton, chief economist at the Abbey National, the second largest lender. The Abbey, like many lenders, divides the total amount of arrears by the current monthly payment to work out how far behind people are with payments. If payments fall after interest rate cuts, borrowers appear to be several months more in arrears without missing any more payments.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders uses the same formula. It is expected to announce next week that the number of people 12 months or more behind with their payments has risen from the 113,000 struggling in 1991. The number of homes reposessed is expected to fall from 75,540 in 1991 to about 70,000 in 1992. Lenders do not want to hold large stocks of reposessed property on their books which they cannot sell and are instead trying to negotiate reduced payments with borrowers in difficulties.

John Wrigglesworth, building societies analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said he expected numbers of borrowers 12 months in arrears to be "sharply up" to well over the 113,000 of 1992. He said: "Of these well over 50 per cent will eventually be reposessed." Building societies had actually allowed in their provisioning or bad debts for 75 per cent of properties more than 12 months in arrears to be reposessed, he said. Any rise in arrears leading to reposessions will almost certainly



delay a recovery in the housing market.

Lenders including the Halifax and the Abbey National, the two largest, say the numbers of people seriously behind with payments is rising. Most of these people's mortgages were also larger than the value of the property, said David Gilchrist, the Halifax's general manager.

House prices fell by 7.8 per cent last year according to the Halifax and they are not likely to pick up before the middle of the year at the earliest. Up to 2 million people are estimated to have mortgages larger than the value of the property including the vast majority of those who lose their homes.

Owners cannot sell in order to trade down to a more manageable property and cannot afford to pay any shortfall between a sale price

and the mortgage. But Mr Gilchrist at the Halifax said that many of those with this problem of "negative equity" were content to stay put. The majority of them are not unemployed and their monthly payments are lower.

At the Woolwich, 90 per cent of those who are reposessed have larger mortgages than their home's value. The society says its reposessions fell by 12 per cent last year.

It was seeing an increase in the number of properties that were abandoned and stripped of internal fittings. Last week, one family had removed the central heating system, the kitchen fittings and the bathroom suite.

Building societies are still trying to offload some of their stock of reposessed homes. At the last count there were more than 68,000. Eamonn Ferrin,

marketing development manager at the Bradford & Bingley said: "Societies often make losses on reposessions. People say societies are hungry to take possession but it is the last thing we want. It adds to the supply glut."

Several societies are offering cheap mortgages to try and get some of the homes off their books. The Bradford & Bingley, which started offering cheap mortgages on reposessed properties in 1991, said it had sold more than 1,500. It is offering mortgages at 4.99 per cent. The Halifax has been running a pilot scheme offering reposessed homes in London and the South East with mortgages of 4.99 per cent fixed for two years. It has extended the scheme to until March but is not intending to repeat the exercise.

Rent rescue scheme founders as owners refuse to be tenants

FEWER than 100 of the thousands of families threatened with repossession appear to have been able to take advantage of the much-typed mortgage rescue schemes announced by the government and big lenders a year ago.

The scheme varied from lender to lender, but typically involved owners transferring home ownership to the lender or a housing association, and staying as tenants.

Many institutions set aside large sums of money to fund the scheme. The Leeds Building Society, for example, earmarked £100 million and Abbey National £60 million. Demand was virtually nil. Abbey National, which claims to have helped more borrowers in this way than any other lender, says that just 25 families have agreed to change from being homeowners to tenants. Nationwide admits to a "handful" - maybe five or six - and the Leeds to "fewer than 20 people".

All identified the main problem as the fact that people who choose to buy rather than rent will normally do anything rather than become tenants. Abbey National said: "We approached hundreds and hundreds of people but the vast majority said they would rather have

help to continue paying their mortgage."

A spokeswoman said there were two other big problems with getting borrowers to accept the rental option. First, the scheme could not be actively marketed; borrowers could only be notified of its existence. Those who were interested had to take independent legal advice before applying.

Second, there was no nationwide system of paying housing benefits. Each local authority had its own rules, and it was impossible to know what kind of help individual borrowers could expect. People who would have qualified for benefit in some areas did not qualify in others.

The Leeds opted for a shared equity scheme under which homeowners entered into a joint ownership agreement with a housing association. "It has not been a vast success, mainly because the

whole scheme was fraught with legal difficulties," a spokesman said.

Nationwide said research undertaken by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation discovered that homeowners would normally prefer to remain owner occupiers. In addition many housing associations discovered that they would have to pay a lot of money for structural improvements to properties before they could legally rent them out because of strict rules governing the state of the properties under their jurisdiction.

Objections by mortgage indemnity insurers scuppered several schemes. In addition, people with negative equity, often those with the greatest need of help, have been excluded by some lenders.

The failure of the ownership-to-tenancy idea came as no surprise to the Cheltenham and Gloucester which has refused to have anything

to do with mortgage rescue schemes of this nature. It said: "We considered it was far too costly, both in money and time, to get involved with third parties."

Many of the problems associated with the schemes arose because the speed with which they were cobbled together. They were produced in response to pressure from a government, desperate to stem the flood of reposessions in the run up to the general election. It soon became obvious that they were virtually unworkable.

"It boils down to listening to what customers actually wanted," said Nationwide, which claims to have helped "many thousands" stay in their own homes over the past year by cutting mortgage payments and offering debt counselling facilities.

But with others claiming a similar success rate, the society admits one of the main reasons for a substantial improvement in the repossession rate is falling interest rates. National Westminster Bank says another significant factor was the Department of Social Security's decision to make mortgage payments directly to lenders.

LIZ DOLAN

Relatively helpful at the Woolwich

By Lindsay Cook
MONEY EDITOR

A GOVERNMENT announcement in the next fortnight should clear the way for a scheme to help homeowners whose mortgage is worth more than their homes to move. The Woolwich Building Society was the first to detail a scheme to help such borrowers after the government said in October it was changing the law to allow people to transfer their tax relief on their mortgages to another property, and to have unsecured loans of up to £25,000 from a building society. Previously, the limit was £10,000.

However, the mobility mortgage has been delayed by Inland Revenue officials who have had difficulty drafting the new regulations to govern such loans. Now the Council of Mortgage Lenders has been told to expect an announcement in the next two weeks stating that legislation is being brought in with immediate effect. The legislation will form part of the Finance Act but will be backdated to the date of the announcement.

The Building Societies Commission will also vet societies to make sure that offering unsecured loans as large as £25,000 will not jeopardise the financial security of the lender.

The Woolwich and other lenders will launch mortgage packages to allow people to add the shortfall on the sale of one property to a new loan. To qualify, the borrowers will need to have no mortgage arrears.

The third largest society has had more



The Thompsons: new life in Bristol

off the loan secured on their relative's home, as well, the cost is much lower than taking out an unsecured loan.

One of the first couples to benefit are Denise and Steven Thompson. She visited her Woolwich branch a few days after the scheme was announced. Her husband was made redundant from his job as an electrician in Plymouth when his firm closed down. He could not get work in the area but got a job in Bristol.

The couple found a buyer for their two bedroom home at £35,000 but their mortgage stood at £44,500. Now they are buying a new three bedroom property in Bristol, where Mrs Thompson has also found work.

The Parentline loan is to be secured on the home of Mr Thompson's cousin, Mary Budge. "She volunteered because she has no mortgage on her home. My parents had offered but their home did not have enough value in the property to cover the loan and their own mortgage," said Mrs Thompson.

The couple are both better paid in Bristol and expect to have no difficulty paying off the money for their first home as well as their new mortgage.

A spokeswoman for the Woolwich said that most applicants for the Parentline mortgage needed to move to find work in another area. Last summer, it was estimated that there were probably more than a million home buyers whose loans were larger than the value of their homes. That will have risen as house prices have fallen by 6 per cent since then.

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First Direct to soft-sell insurance policies

By Sara McConnell

CUSTOMERS of First Direct, the telephone banking arm of the Midland Bank, are likely to be asked whether they want to buy a life assurance or pension plan when they ring up to carry out bank transactions on current accounts.

Previously, First Direct has only discussed and sold life assurance and pensions with customers who have approached them.

Now, the bank, which has 350,000 customers, will look at individual activity on customers' accounts and target those likely to be interested.

It is not clear yet whether any plans sold would be branded as First Direct policies but the bank is a tied agent of Midland Life, the life assurance arm of Midland Bank and can only sell Midland Life policies.

The big branch-based banks now all set targets for their sales staff to sell life and

pensions policies which net the banks large commissions from their life and pensions arms.

However, the banks' opportunities for marketing to customers have become more limited since "negative option selling" was outlawed by the Code of Banking Practice brought in last year. Customers should now not be sent marketing material unless they specifically ask for it.

Mark Green, First Direct's customer services manager, said the bank would be more "pro-active" in selling long-term life assurance and pension products but said only existing customers would be approached.

First Direct staff would not be given sales targets this year, the bank said. However, they would instead be monitored on the way they discussed long-term savings plans like life and pensions



Expansive move: Kevin Newman of First Direct is considering car cover by telephone

with customers. Those staff who tried the hard sell could be disciplined or even suspended, while those who did not try to sell customers a policy that they did not need

or want would have this reflected in their performance-related pay, Mr Green said.

Customers who object to being asked to discuss their pension or life policy arrangements when they ring up to pay bills or to check their bank balance will have this noted on their computer file. First Direct would not be cold

calling its customers, Mr Green added. Paul Gratton, sales director for First Direct, said: "We don't want a hard sell as this would kill it with the customer."

More active marketing of life and pensions is part of a wider drive into new areas for First Direct this year.

Kevin Newman, chief executive of First Direct, said the bank was also considering expanding into selling motor insurance by telephone, a service which it does not yet offer.

If it pursues such activity, First Direct could be competing with insurers like DirectLine, the motor insurance arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland, which allows customers to telephone the company and arrange instant insurance cover.

Motor insurance bought direct is normally cheaper because the company does not have to pay brokers' commission

Savers switch to unit trusts to escape sluggish returns

By Lindsay Cook, MONEY EDITOR



Fund raiser: David Holcroft, Woolwich Unit Trust Managers

SAVERS fed up with the low interest rates being paid on building society and bank accounts are slowly switching money to unit trusts or other equity-based investments in pursuit of growth and income.

Unit trust groups and building societies offering unit trusts and equity investments report a surge of interest. At Save & Prosper, enquiries have tripled on Saturdays and quadrupled on Sundays this month. At James Capel, 2,500 people a month ask about its FT-SE fund.

Some attribute the trend to

the year-end interest notifications sent out by some societies. These will have clarified for investors just how little they are getting on their savings compared with a year ago.

The Halifax Building Society pays interest on many of its accounts at the end of January and will shortly afterwards send mail to customers that suggests investing in either its Income or Global Advantage unit trusts.

Peter Roney, managing director of Halifax Financial Services, said sales of units had been more buoyant than

he would have expected in November and December. "I suspect that what has happened is that people noticed something of a hiatus in August and September followed by very confused gyrations in the financial markets. Since we have departed from the exchange-rate mechanism they have seen a focus back on the UK economy and prospects of interest rates declining and the hope that there will be growth in the UK economy," said Mr Roney.

The income fund provides a gross yield of about 4.5 per cent, which means that the fund manager did not have to sacrifice growth to get the income. Since the launch of Global Advantage, a £5,000 investment would have grown to £6,833.50, while the same amount put into the income fund almost a year ago would be worth £5,700. A typical high interest account would have produced £5,920 since the launch of the Global fund and £5,282 since the end of last January. The funds have a total of 36,000 unitholders and £118 million invested.

The Woolwich Building Society launched its unit trust, the Stockmarket Fund, two years ago on January 28 and now has 193 million invested. David Holcroft, managing director of Woolwich Unit Trust Managers, said that during the first year, while 80 per cent

of the unit trust investors were existing Woolwich customers, about 70 per cent of investment was from outside the society. Last year the proportion of Woolwich account money increased.

The fund has produced an after-charges return of 26 per cent since the outset. Without charges, the rise would have been 37 per cent. This means that a £5,000 investment would now be worth £6,305. The same amount in the society's Prime Gold savings would now be worth £5,616.77.

New sales of the unit trust doubled last year and £4.5 million was invested in December, taking the fund to seventh out of 100 UK general funds over the period from its launch. About 95 per cent of the unitholders have bought the unit trust as a personal equity plan.

The National & Provincial Building Society bought six unit trusts from Capel Cure Myers a year ago and since then the money invested has doubled from £48 million to £100 million.

The society is about to launch a guaranteed fund that will pay a gross return equivalent to 133 per cent of the FT-SE gain over the period. The fund has no charges. Bristol & West will be launching a further guaranteed equity bond in early February.

BRIEFINGS

TSB is offering borrowers a one-year fixed rate of 6.49 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 6.9 per cent) for endowment loans only. Two other fixed rates, 8.5 per cent for four and a half years and a capped rate of 7.5 per cent, are also available. Both can be taken as repayment, endowment or pension mortgages. The fixed rate has an APR of 9.1 per cent for repayments and 9 per cent for pensions and endowments. The capped rate had an APR of 8.1 per cent for repayments and 7.9 per cent for endowments and pensions.

□ Northern Rock building society is to re-open the original issue of the First Post Plus investment account on Monday. The postal account requires a minimum investment of £10,000. It offers instant access withdrawals and a top rate of 8.15 per cent variable gross, 6.11 per cent net on annual interest and up to 7.86 per cent variable gross, 5.89 per cent net on monthly income. Details can be obtained by telephoning 0300 590547.

□ Scottish Provident has cut payouts on all traditional with-profits endowment policies by up to 4 per cent. A man putting £30 a month into a ten-year policy started at age 29 which matures after February 1 1993 will get £6,844, 4 per cent less than the same policy maturing a year earlier. The same man with a 15-year policy maturing after February 1993, will see a 3.1 per cent cut on his payout to £15,825. Payouts on 25-year policies will fall by 1.7 per cent to £56,409.

□ The Scarborough building society is to re-open the original issue of the First Post Plus investment account on Monday. The postal account requires a minimum investment of £10,000. It offers instant access withdrawals and a top rate of 8.15 per cent variable gross, 6.11 per cent net on annual interest and up to 7.86 per cent variable gross, 5.89 per cent net on monthly income. Details can be obtained by telephoning 0300 590547.

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Health cover cost may double

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

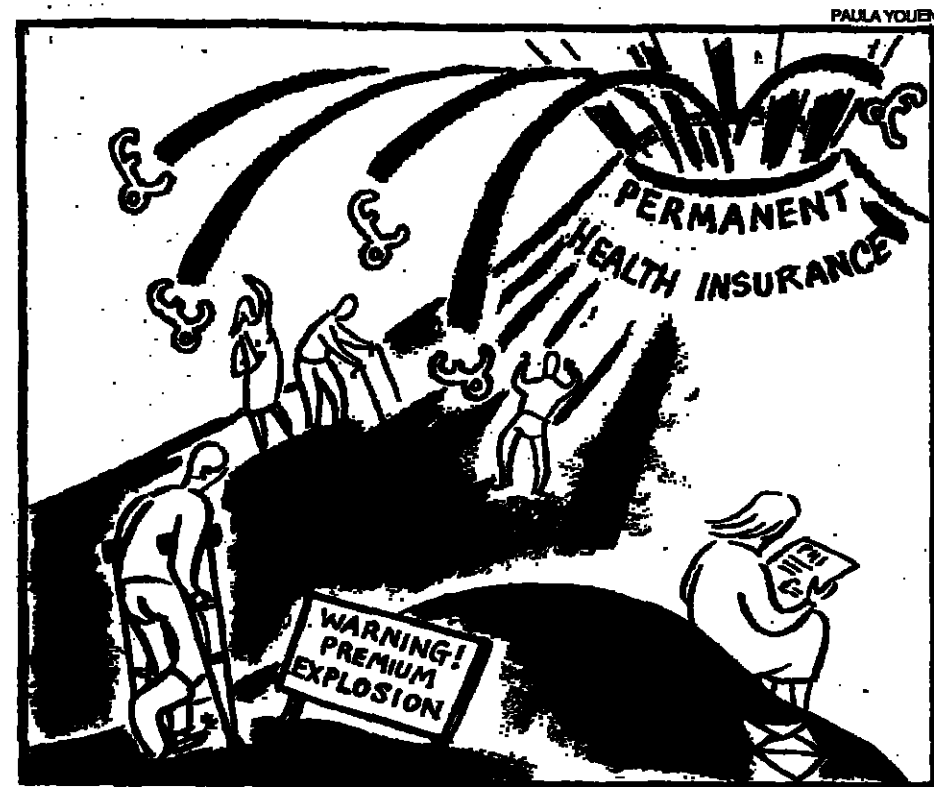
THE cost of insurance to replace income in the event of prolonged illness is to double, in some cases, because too many people are claiming. Allied Dunbar, the market leader in permanent health insurance cover, is the first to raise premiums but it expects other providers to fall into line.

The increases of up to 100 per cent will come into effect for new policies from February 15. People with existing policies will be charged more from their next five-year review.

The worst-affected are older policyholders — and in this category of insurance, that means people of 35 or over. Women face the biggest increases; those aged 35 and over next birthday will have to pay 85 per cent more if they are in occupation group B.

Job categories vary according to the health hazards involved. Those with only slight exposure to danger are category A, with moderate exposure they are category B and appreciable exposure puts them in category C. In some cases, if the risks are very high, cover would be refused.

An officer on a passenger liner would be category A with Allied Dunbar. On a cargo ship he would be category B and on an oil tanker, category C. Men aged 25 next birthday face 16 per cent increases if they wait three months for payouts but only 7 per cent if



they wait six months. Women, however, will be charged 39 per cent more if they wait three months and 29 per cent more if they wait six months.

Insurers are sensitive to charges of sexual discrimination after a woman dentist challenged the fact that she was charged 50 per cent more for her permanent health cover than male colleagues. The High Court ruled, however,

that the higher rates for women were legitimate because the small number of women who took out such cover typically made more claims than men.

When it entered the permanent health market in 1986, Allied Dunbar used the industry's claims experience. Now it has sufficient data of its own.

Jerry Grayburn, Allied Dunbar marketing director,

said: "We believe that the new contribution rates we have set accurately reflect our current experience and our revised view of the future."

The company, which has 100,000 policyholders, says the numbers claiming, and the average length of claims, have risen rapidly. There is evidence that recession has influenced the length of claims. Peter Kelly, life mar-

keting director, said: "Claims are being exacerbated by the recession. It causes a lot of stress and stress-related claims, which are genuine, are rising. The speed of modern life is also putting more people under stress at work."

Employees who lose their jobs because of prolonged illness will not want to seek others before they are sure of being fit enough to compete for them. Also, some people who expect not to need to claim, may have discontinued their policies to economise. That means the number of healthy policyholders has fallen while that of sick ones has increased.

A man aged 35 next birthday, insured to cover £12,000 a year deferred for three months, will have to pay a monthly premium of £26.34 if he wants cover to retirement at 60. Allied Dunbar points out that if such a policyholder is badly injured in a car accident shortly after taking out the policy and is unable to work again, he will have received more than £560,000 by the time he is 60, allowing for inflation at 5 per cent.

The company says that one person in four will be off work for six months or more before retiring.

In the autumn, Munich Reinsurance warned that permanent health insurance premiums would have to rise by up to half, while M&G Re said premiums would have to rise by up to 100 per cent.

Cross words save cash

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE British Bankers Association has told customers who have not yet been sent chequebooks pre-printed with the words "account payee only" to write in these words themselves to prevent fraud.

Many customers are using up old chequebooks and do not have the protection of the pre-printed words. National Westminster will not issue chequebooks with the words pre-printed until this Monday so its 6 million customers should write in the words if sending cheques.

Since the Cheques Act became law last summer, the words "account payee only" written between the two vertical lines on a cheque have legal force. Banks who accept cheques crossed in this way must make sure that they are paid into an account in the payee's name. If they accept cheques made out to a third party, they will be held liable if

the cheque has been stolen. The consequences of not crossing cheques before sending them through the post were brought home last September to Ken Pyne, an illustrator.

He was sent a cheque for £646.25 by a PR firm. It was drawn on a National Westminster account and was not crossed "a/c payee only".

These words would have had legal force as the Cheques Act had been passed. The cheque was intercepted in the post and paid into a Halifax building society account in Hounslow. It was signed on the back, K. Pyne, in writing totally unlike Mr Pyne's.

The Halifax said the cheque was paid in via an ATM machine and it had no reason to suspect that the cheque had been stolen. "The cheque was processed through the clearing system as normal and funds were paid out once the cheque had cleared."

Claim now for perks tax refund

EMPLOYEES who have been wrongly taxed on perks provided by their employers should make claims for repayments before the end of the tax year on April 5, or they could easily lose a whole year's refund (Lindsay Cook writes).

This week, the Inland Revenue published details of the repercussions of a case that was won in the House of Lords last November, by a group of school teachers from a public school.

In the case of Pepper versus Hart, the Revenue had wanted to charge the teachers on the full cost of providing a place to educate their children at the public school where they taught. The teachers argued that they should only be taxed on the additional costs incurred by their children.

Their victory means that hundreds of thousands of people will now be able to claim overpaid tax dating back to April 6, 1986.

Those who will be eligible are employees who have paid tax on goods or services produced by their employer based on the average cost of producing the benefit rather than the marginal cost or additional cost to the employer.

Rail employees who have been taxed on the cost of their free travel to and from work will now get a refund of the tax because it did not cost



Ferrar: delays lose money


Ferrar, a partner at KPMG Tax Advisers, said. In tax law, claims for rebates can go back six years.

In some cases, employees might have some difficulty in obtaining specific figures from employers or former employers dating back as far as six years.

They could tell their tax office that they will be making a claim back to 1986 and detail the benefits received and hope that they will still get the full amount if they do not manage to produce specific details until the next tax year.

All claimants should give their national insurance number and the years in which they paid tax on in-house benefits from their companies.

The Revenue estimates that up to £30 million will be paid back to employees as a result of the Lords ruling on Pepper versus Hart.



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13	13	Aspen	186
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13	13	Bureau
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544	267	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
545	268	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
546	269	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
547	270	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
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717	440	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
718	441	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
719	442	Derwood Rivers	395	107	8.6	40	23.1
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72							

91	23	Wages	37
44	17	Wood John D.	41

[illegible]

445	211	Assoc Br Ports	361
816	531	BAA	797
315	219	Br Airways	275
187	45	Clarkson (21)	28

[illegible]

219	70	Methylpropane (A)	102	4.1	10.3	...	7.1
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PLAN PLACES LOCALS

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

EXCHANGE RATES				
Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 79.7 (day's range 79.5-79.8).				
STANDARD & POOR'S EXCHANGE RATES				
Mkt Rates for Jan 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam	2.7327-2.7584	2.7550-2.7584	1-month	3-month
Breast	50.09-50.27	50.46-50.57	2-ids	11-12ids
Frankfurt	2.4331-2.4435	2.4375-2.4420	30-140ds	100-135ds
Dublin	0.9199-0.9233	0.9250-0.9233	81-140ds	100-135ds
London	2.4331-2.4435	2.4375-2.4420	116-128ds	361-390ds
Madrid	171.35-171.92	173.03-172.92	99-110ds	116-128ds
Milan	2220.40-2258.50	2247.30-2258.50	9-12ds	26-32ds
Paris	1.8445-1.8615	1.8618-1.8678	0.15-0.02ds	0.06-0.12ds
New York	1.5100-1.5350	1.5340-1.5350	0.35-0.51ds	1.30-1.20ds
Stockholm	10.5680-10.6260	10.6030-10.6260	2-3-ids	79-91ds
Geneva	10.5680-10.6260	10.6030-10.6260	2-3-ids	79-91ds
Stockholm	10.5160-11.0060	10.9830-11.0060	2-3-ids	79-91ds
Tokyo	191.76-191.57	191.76-191.57	1-1-ids	1-1-ids
Zurich	1.709-1.727	1.7176-1.7197	1-1-ids	1-1-ids
Venezuela	2.2302-2.4434	2.2388-2.2419	1-1-ids	1-1-ids
Source: Data			Premium - pr. Discount - ds	

Bahrain dirham	0.564-0.576	Bahamas (Com.)	33.33-33.17
Brazil cruzeiro	23463.5-24784.8	Belgium	1.2853-1.2858
Cypriot pound	0.70-0.726	Denmark	7.46-7.47
Finnish markka	8.9595-8.9755	France	5.440-5.445
French franc	6.49-6.494	Germany	5.205-5.206
Hong Kong dollar	11.7722-11.773	Hong Kong	7.717-7.745
Indian rupee	3.421-3.4417	Ireland	1.652-1.657
Italian lire	2.098-2.0984	Israel	1477.0-1482.0
Malaysia ringgit	4.9294-4.9351	Japan	122.4-122.1
Maltese scudo	9.25-9.254	Malaysia	2.592-2.594
New Zealand dollar	2.9375-2.945	Netherlands	1.8058-1.809
Saudi Arabian riyal	5.607-5.733	Norway	1.638-1.640
Singapore dollar	2.465-2.4654	Portugal	1.94-1.945
Swiss franc (fin.)	7.26-7.28	Singapore	11.25-11.26
US Africa rand	4.6763-4.6848	Spain	112.5-113.0
US A & E drachm	1.66-1.67	Sweden	2.11-2.122
Barcelona Bank <i>GTS</i> x <i>Lloyds</i> Bank		Switzerland	1.4765-1.4775

MARKET COMMENTARY

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7% Finance Rate 7%
 Discount Market Loans: Overnight high 7% Low 7% Weak Frank 7%
 Treasury Bills (Discount): 2 1/2% 3 1/2% 5 1/2% 6 1/2% 7 1/2% 8 1/2%

Prime Bank Bills (Oid):
 1 month 7 1/4% 2 month 7 1/4% 3 month 7 1/4% 6 month 7 1/4% 12 month 7 1/4%

Clearing Banks: 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4%

Overnight open 7% close 7%
 Local Authority Debt:
 Building CDO 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4%
 Building CDO 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4%
 Building Society CDO 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4% 7 1/4%

TREASURY BILLS: Apples: 1552m; allotted: 110m; Wide 69.4% received: 100%
 Last week 198.4% received: 100%; Ave rate: 14.1067% Last wk 14.5772% Next week: 14.10m

EUROPEAN MONTHLY FORECASTS

	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	Call
Germany	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Denmark	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8
France	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8
Swiss Franc	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8
Italy	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8

COLD AND PRECIPITATION INDEX

	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	Call
Germany	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Denmark	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8
France	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8
Swiss Franc	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8
Italy	12-12	12-11 1/2	11 1/2-11	10 1/2-10	8 1/2-8

Oerter's four golds threatened by 'Golden Four'

THROWING the discus, the symbolic Olympic sport from ancient Greece, is doomed in the 21st century, along with some other athletic events. The deeds of Al Oerter, the four-time Olympic champion, will become no more than history. And watch out, too, for a feminist battle over the denial of equal athletics prize-money, similar to the dispute in tennis.

As the debate on world championship prize-money continues — its refusal confirmed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council here yesterday — Svein-Arne Hansen, from Oslo, one of the foremost meeting promoters, revealed that, for 1994, the leading IAAF grand prix meetings will be grading the publicity and commercial value of track and field events, and the proportional value of men's and women's competitors.

For 1993, the "Golden Four" grands prix — Berlin,

Brussels, Oslo and Zurich — are to pay prize-money for the first time, for eight men's and six women's events. For the first four places, the prize-money will respectively be \$6,000, \$4,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000.

The Golden Four prize-money events for men in 1993 are the 100 metres, 400 metres, 1,500 metres or mile, 5,000 metres, 3,000 metres hurdles, pole vault and shot. For women, they are the 200 metres, 800 metres, 3,000 metres, 400 metres hurdles, long jump and javelin.

But the following year, the Golden Four will seek to open the prize-money door to commercial reality. This means that, more than ever, the 100 metres, 1,500 metres or mile, 5,000 metres and pole vault will become the top events for men, offering the largest bonuses.

Women's events, other than perhaps the 3,000 metres, will

David Miller reports from Jakarta on moves that could undermine the traditional face of track and field athletics in the Olympic Games

take second financial billing, as will men's 200 metres, shot, discus, triple jump and so on.

This, in turn, will condition those events for which competitors are willing to spend thousands of hours training.

As the money becomes focused on a few spectacular events, others will decline over the next 20 years, even to the point of extinction.

The council, confirming the IAAF's four-year budget for 1992-5, decided unanimously yesterday on three particular issues:

□ No prize-money for this or any other year's world championship.

□ A grant of \$1,000 per athlete entered at championships to every member federa-

tion, raised to \$1,500 for the world junior championships.

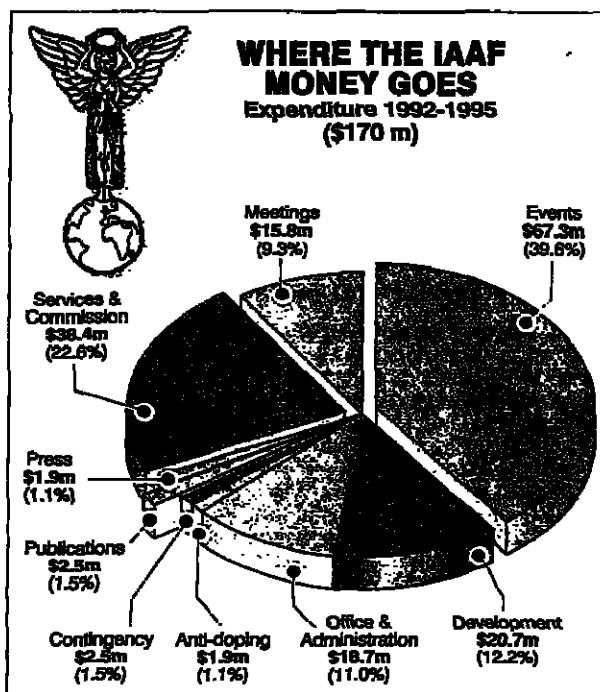
□ A pro-rata grant to federations which obtain individual sponsorship for team travel, thereby avoiding the need to claim expenses covered by the IAAF.

This will enable national federations to decide on bonus payments to medal winners in lieu of official prize-money. The IAAF is determined to protect the broad base of athletics development through its member federations, and not to fall into the trap of excessive financial reward to a minority of top competitors that has jeopardised the stability of football and tennis.

The folly of the agents' organisation, the International

Association of Athletes' Representatives (IAAR), is that the threat of a world championship boycott will damage its own athletes' interests and bears no relation to commercial credibility in the blanket demand of \$265,000 prize-money across the board for every event.

Hansen, who sits at the pragmatic sharp end of the sport, yesterday observed: "We have to evaluate events, and the proportional prize-money, because that is the way we can survive at our level. But I think it is right that additional money for the competitors from the world championships should go through the federations. We know that some managers/federations of certain countries cheat some of their athletes by not giving them the money, but that tendency should decrease the more the prize-money system becomes formalised, and the more the totalitarian regimes become democratised."



Favourite son completes long-awaited comeback for Nottingham on derby day in the Pilkington Cup

Homecoming completes return for Rees

THERE will be ironic cheers from the 3,000 or so Leicester supporters who will throng the Nottingham ground at Beeston today when Dusty Hare takes his place in the stand before the fourth round Pilkington Cup match. Hare, the Nottingham director of rugby, played his last senior game four years ago as full back for Leicester.

But there will be genuine appreciation from all sides for Gary Rees when he trots out in Nottingham's colours. If the Royal family nominated 1992 as an *annus horribilis*, then Rees would be entitled to do the same. In rugby terms, the year was virtually erased by injury and by the court case which hung over the flanker for eight months until he was cleared of causing grievous bodily harm to Stefan Marty in a match with London Irish last January.

Rees, 32 and a stone over-

David Hands, rugby correspondent, on the flanker who fought back from prosecution and injury to play at Beeston again today

weight, will be playing his first home senior game of the season: his comeback has consisted of a second-XV match against Rosslyn Park and an evening game at Gloucester last week, after a 16-month period in which he played barely half a dozen games. One of them was his 23rd England appearance, against the United States during the World Cup.

He is loath to look back at the court case, an ordeal in which he was assisted by a great well of support from the Nottingham club and supporters (Marty, whose jaw was broken, is also playing again for the Irish). Injuries have been his primary concern. A

dislocated shoulder followed by strained knee ligaments, the result of too much road running during the summer.

"I thought about stopping because I didn't know if I would enjoy it any more after the events of 1992," Rees said. "I had to be sure I would have the same enjoyment factor from the type of game I play, at the level I like to play. But after a couple of games I know that I do, playing the same old way, and what better match to come back in at Beeston?"

"Both Dusty and I know that I'm not match-hard, but I imagine he thought the side could do with a bit of experience against Leicester. It's exciting. If it goes well then I can still look for better things. It's not worth doing anything half-heartedly."

Rees displays an infectious enthusiasm for the game, which helped to earn him international caps between 1984 and 1991: as one whose playing skills and lines of running take him through every short cut in the book, his presence on the same field as Neil Back, of Leicester, adds spice to the contest.

It was Rees's presence at Nottingham that persuaded Back to move to Leicester two years ago, since when the blond youngster has moved to the verge of international honours.

It is not, though, a direct head-to-head: Rees will play on the blind-side flank, Back on the open; Rees at five in the lineout, Back at the tail. Since he has played in those positions for England, it will not be hard for Rees to slot back and forth with Simon Hodgkinson at full back, who will be quite like old times at Beeston.

The Midlands encounter is one of four derbies, among them Worcester's encounter with Orrell. "We would like to see a northern club get to the final," Sir Anthony Pilkington, the sponsoring company chairman, said this week, acknowledging the lift it would give to the region.

It was Worcester who opened up the whole competition by beating Bath in the last round. Since then they have become second-division leaders, but Orrell have emerged from their early-season trough.

Walsley came out of the north to take last season's beaten finalists, the enigmatic Harlequins. "We have nothing to lose," Jim Coulter, the Walsley team secretary, said. "It's a fine stage for our young lads to show what they can do."



Fast and loose: Rees, whose speed and creativity brought him 23 England caps, whips the ball to his backs

Glory beckons for small clubs

By Gerald Davies

THE fifth round of the Swalec Welsh Cup is the time when the competition can be said to come into its own. The gradual filtering of the weaker clubs has taken place so that only the fitter and the stronger from among them remain.

For these lesser clubs, this is the chance to face the fancy Dons from the higher divisions of the league. It is the moment to put them down to size and to cherish the chance of glory. More so if the big clubs draw the short straw and have to play away from home. This is when the big clubs turn to jelly.

Today, ten of the first division clubs have been drawn to play among the minnows. Eight of those drew the short straw. Only Pontypridd and Cardiff, who beat

Maesteg from the first division in the last round, can walk confidently to their grounds. They play, respectively, Pencaer, from near Bridgend, and St Peter's, long a feeder club of Cardiff.

Of the small clubs, Fleur de Lys already know what it is like to savour success. This village club, just over the hill from Newbridge and nestled in the Shroton valley in the Severn-Avon-Aberavon 9-5 in the last round, which gave grounds for quite a celebration in their centenary year. It is their third consecutive season to reach this stage. Cross Keys and Neath beat them in the last two years, but not by much.

It is Bridgend's turn to face them this afternoon. That great leveller, the rain, will

worry them even more, however much Rob Llewellyn, the Fleur de Lys secretary, may attempt to allay these fears. Any more torrential rain will put most fixtures in jeopardy.

"Our pitch is in good condition," Llewellyn said yesterday. "We haven't played much on it recently but it will need, nonetheless, a bit of wind to dry it out." A temporary stand has been up and Fleur de Lys are expecting a crowd of 2,000.

The holders, Llanelly, play Kenfig Hill, a third division side coached by the former Wales hooker, Alan Phillips. The runners-up, Swansea, travel west to Tenby United who, having come top of the third division last season, are less comfortable in their first season in the second.

IN BRIEF

Medal hope lies with Tout's crew

Mark Tout, the British bobsleigh champion, held second place after the first two runs of the four-man competition at the European championships in St. Moritz yesterday. Tout and his crew, Chris Symonds, Courtney Rumbolt and Lenny Paul, trail Gustav Weder, the Swiss, by 0.23sec after finishing in 2min 6.54sec.

If the Army corporal, 32,

can hold a top-three position after today's final two runs, he will become the first British medal-winner in a big competition since 1968, when John Blockley took two bronzes in the European championships.

Havant's test

Hockey: The Pizza Express national league resumes after the winter break with a vital game between Havant, the champions, and Hounslow, the leaders, at Feltham tomorrow. Both teams are at full strength, and Havant need to win to remain in the title-chase. The second-placed side, Southgate, are at home against struggling Neston.

Trio dropped

Bowls: Three England players from the world women's team event last summer — Mary Price, Jean Baker and Barbara Till — have been left out of the England team for the inaugural Atlantic Rim outdoor championships at Sun City, Florida, in October. They have been replaced by Gwen Daniel, Shirley Page and Margaret Heggie.

Davies tied

Golf: Laura Davies moved to within a shot of the lead after a second-round 71 in the Thailand Open in Pattaya yesterday. She finished alongside Helen Wadsworth, from Wales, on 145, one over par, and starts the final round today one stroke behind Karen Lunn, of Australia, and Kay Cornelius, of the United States.

Roche setback

Cycling: Stephen Roche, the former Tour de France winner who retires at the end of the season, will miss the first race of his final campaign — the Tour of the Mediterranean, starting on February 10 — after damaging his knee in a training accident near Paris.

Reid reaps reward

Boxing: Robin Reid, Britain's only boxing medal-winner at the Barcelona Olympics, will make his professional debut on a Frank Warren show on February 27. The Merseysider, 21, won a bronze in the light-middleweight division.

Pilkington Cup

Fourth round

Harlequins v Wakefield
With Thresher and Snow left, Harlequins play Bray at full back and move Langford to his divisional place of lock. Dear returns earlier than planned alongside him, with Sheehy at No. 8 and Alexander on the wing. Wakefield are without Bramley (lock) and Edwards (centre) for the second cup meeting between the clubs (the first was drawn 3-3 in 1987) but believe themselves stronger up front this season.

Northampton v Newcastle Gossforth

Reinforced by the return of their England internationals and Sheffield after injury, Northampton should hold too many trump cards for Newcastle Gossforth, whose team has slipped a bit. They recall Roberts, 42, at lock for the unavailable Baird and will recall the intensity of two previous cup encounters, when they won 7-4 (1975) and drew 6-6 (1986).

Nottingham v Leicester

Nottingham field possibly their strongest XV against rivals whom they have played only once in the cup, in its inaugural season, when Nottingham won 10-3. Since then they have beaten Leicester only once and will be underdogs against a side unchanged from that which beat Northampton in the league.

Redruth v Exeter

If Redruth can recover their pre-Christmas form they will test their mid-division colleagues. Huxtable is at loose-head prop in a squad of 18 against opponents who won the last

cup meeting 18-3 in 1988. Exeter, beaten only twice this season, bring in Edrooke (hook) and Hutchinson (flanker) because of injuries to Langley and Westgate.

Rugby v Moseley

Rugby's two wings, Saunders and Bromley, are fit and hope to repeat last season's win over Moseley, though the clubs have not met in the cup. Moseley have 'Teague in their back row and Kerr at stand-off for the injured Hardcastle, with Lloyd and Raymond paired at lock.

Wasps v Saracens

Wasps won a scrappy league meeting 13-9 this month and bring in Hopley for his first competitive outing of the season in place of the unavailable Childs. Pilgrim returns on the wing against the same Saracens XV that played a tonight ago and are trying to reach the fifth round for the first time since 1977.

Waterloo v Orrell

Waterloo restore the experienced Wilkinson at lock, the only change from the side that beat Bath in the third round. Since then they have reached the top of the second division, sounding a warning to Orrell who, with a couple of injury doubts, have named a squad of 18.

West Hartlepool v Morley

Steve Havery remains scrum half in a West Hartlepool side meeting Morley for the first time since their tragic match last season, when John Howe, the West lock, collapsed and died during the game. Morley, without a league win, omit Clark, their leading try scorer, and prefer Jennings at stand-off.

□ Compiled by David Hands

	Depth	Conditions	Last
	(cm)	Plate	Weather Temp snow
	L	U	°C
AUSTRIA			
Bad Gastein	10-100	hard	cloudy sunny
		(Skiing above mid-station only; snow cover patchy)	11/12
Seefeld	5-20	poor	bare bright
		(Best skiing on highest runs, on hand-packed snow)	4/12/12
Sölden	5-120	fair	warm sunny
		(Old snow hand-packed on upper slopes; 19 of 23 lifts open)	2/12/12
St Anton	10-250	fair	thin bright
		(Snow hard and icy in the morning; softening by afternoon)	3/14/1
FRANCE			
Chamonix	20-300	good	open sunny
		(Still good cover providing skiing on soft snow)	4/12/1
La Plagne	5-300	hand-packed	patchy sunny
		(Best snow on south-facing slopes above 2,000m; 86 lifts open)	0/12/1
Les Deux Alpes	30-220	good	cloudy sunny
		(Best snow on glacier; poor conditions on lower slopes)	10/12/1
Megeve	0-100	limited	cloudy bright
		(Skiing only above 1,900m, on soft snow)	2/12/1
Risoul	15-75	fair	wet sunny
		(Spring snow above mid-station; 18 of 21 lifts open)	5/12/12
ITALY			
Bardonecchia	20-90	fair	cloudy sunny
		(Wet snow by afternoon; 80% of lift area open)	10/4/1
Courmayeur	40-170	soft	patchy sunny
		(Best snow on glacier; 22 of 23 lifts open)	7/12/1
Sest	20-70	fair	icy sunny
		(All lifts open on Val Gardena; Sella Ronda open)	0/12/1
SPAIN			
Formigal	15-45	hand-packed	open sunny
		(Thirty-three kilometres of pistes and 18 lifts open)	3/24/12
Sol y Nieve	20-40	hand-packed	open sunny
		(Best snow at the Pista del Rio; 12 lifts open)	1/27/12
SWITZERLAND			
Saas Fee	20-190	soft	open sunny
		(Cold, dry snow on highest slopes; icy patches on lower slopes)	1/14/1
Verbier	3-250	fair	thin sunny
		(Best snow above mid-station; 90% of resort open)	2/13/1
Villars	20-20	poor	cloudy
		(Snow hard in the morning, becoming wet by afternoon)	2/11/12
Wengen	0-30	hand-packed	cloudy sunny
		(All pistes below top station closed)	4/12/12

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

BADMINTON

SEUL: Korean Open championships: Men's singles: Semi-finals: 1. Laurentine (Den) 2. A. Kurniawan (Indo), 15-10, 15-12; 2. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 3. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 4. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 5. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 6. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 7. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 8. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 9. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 10. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 11. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 12. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 13. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 14. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 15. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 16. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 17. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 18. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 19. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 20. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 21. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 22. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 23. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 24. S. Pradyumn (Indo), 15-8, 15-12. 25. S. 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FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

Holding tight: Simon McNeill clears the last fence safely on Cogent at Kempton

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the Royal Trophy final

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Saturday portrait: Allan Border by Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

Border is monument to the most prized Australian qualities

IT IS difficult to recall a time when Allan Border was not playing cricket for Australia — indeed, when he was not captaining them. In a shifting, transient sporting world, he is a comforting fixture, an institution in his homeland and a respected emissary for his game worldwide.

His international career is 14 years old and has one more year to run, a year in which he will set the standards and incentives for future generations. Already, Border has played in more Test matches than anybody else in history. Today in Adelaide, as he began his 137th match, the fourth Test against West Indies, he was equalling Clive Lloyd's record of leading his country 74 times, and he needed only 69 runs to become the heaviest scorer in Test cricket.

It would be fitting for the record to fall on Tuesday, for that is Australia Day. From the stubble and moustache of his sun-beaten face to the tenacity, loyalty and occasional irascibility of his temperament, Border is intensely Australian.

He could have been a beach-bum in Sydney, where he grew up as a potential rebel amid the distractions of that diverse and enchanted city. That he became a cricketer owed something to fate and something else to Ian Chappell, his earliest hero and mentor.

Chappell was for years unrivalled as a pugilist cricketer, both as batsman and captain. Border, totally left-handed but sharing all Chappell's other attributes, has inherited the man's mantle and eclipsed his figures and reputation since, coincidentally, gaining his first international break only through the desertion to Kerry Packer in which the Chappell brothers were so instrumental.

Border's Test debut, in Melbourne after Christmas 1978, was a winning one. Three games later, he was dropped, something that has never happened again. He has played a staggering 134 consecutive Tests. Fortunately, certainly, to have avoided serious injury, he has nevertheless played more often than he cares to remember with

the type of bruises, cracks and strains that would persuade a less resolute character to take a rest.

This attitude reflects in his captaincy, as explained by the fast bowler, Merv Hughes. "Border plays the game the way he would like everyone else to play it," Hughes says. "He's a very tough, very courageous sort of bloke. I mean, if you're going off the ground all the time or you put your hand up to say your ankle's a bit sore and you want to get it looked at, he sort of looks at you and gives it the 'Aw, and get a bowl of milk while you're there'."

Hughes, of the shaved head, drooping moustache and manic personality, is an ad-man's gift. Border is more problematical. He appears on television commercials and billboards because of his

ly, from a veteran Australian journalist who chummily asked: "How'd you feel, A.B.?" With a glare of utter contempt, Border snapped back: "How'd you [expletive deleted] think I feel?" The interview never quite got going after that.

His heart was on his sleeve again during a turbulent first Test against West Indies in Brisbane last November. This time, it was an umpire, Steve Randell, who copped the verbal "serve", as they say in these parts. Border was fined half his match fee for dissent but, with the dark mood still on him, declined to appear for his hearing.

It is only during occasional instances of this kind, when Border's outraged sense of justice has had the better of him, that his

leadership could be validly questioned. He has always led by example but his tactical brain, and ability to block and trap a batsman through field-placings, has matured with the years. The same cannot be said for his impulses.

Late in 1991, for example, he carried his personal grievance over the omission of his vice-captain, Geoff Marsh, beyond acceptable bounds. He reported late for the next match, and there were those who feared he would not report at all.

This winter, he created a verbal spat with the administrators by publicly criticising their future scheduling and yet he handled a more seriously sensitive issue with firm diplomacy, appointing himself as spokesman for the players on their claim for increased pay and presenting a persuasive written paper on the subject to the Australian Cricket Board.

If adversity sometimes exposes the raw edge of his character, it invariably exposes his greatest virtues as a player. Australian cricket was in the mire when he began his Test career and it was in the distress again when he took on the captaincy from a tearful Kim Hughes in 1984. It sometimes seems he has spent his crickering life staving off impending doom,

an impression gained because such situations have regularly inspired him.

It is easy to remember the heroics of England's Botham and Willis during the extraordinary series of 1981. It is worth recalling that Border made two outstanding centuries for a side suddenly reduced from winners to also-rans. It is also worth recording that, on a Sunday night in Birmingham after Botham had humiliated Australia a second time, Border kept a promise to Willis and spent a long evening at his benefit dinner.

Matshup, another Australian term, is very precious to Border. He is loyal to those who merit it but his close friendship with Botham was strained to breaking point after their brief and fateful time as Queensland team-mates. Now, more privately but also more importantly, his relations with those close to him at the Australian helm are showing signs of stress.

There is a theory that some men in high places would gladly have had him replaced as captain by now. Border is aware and alert. He is not about to stand by and be stabbed in the back. He has achieved almost every-

thing, including winning the World Cup in 1987 and successive series wins, by 4-0 and 3-0, over England. Winning a series against West Indies is his remaining great goal. Now that he has ended four years without a Test century and stands on the verge of his ambition, surely nobody can threaten his right to end his career as he chooses.

After this week, he has a maximum of 19 more Tests in a hectic year, climaxing in the tour to South Africa he thought he would never make. By then, he will have made his fifth tour of

England and played one last time at Lord's, his favourite ground, just before his 38th birthday. He might be up to a total of 156 Tests, 30 clear of the field, and his run aggregate may be close to 12,000.

Typically, he plays all this down. "If you play hundreds of matches, like I have, there's a sort of inevitability about going past all these records." What needs to be said for him is that if anybody not only matches his runs and his longevity but also his contribution to his game, that man is destined to be a monumental sporting figure.

Leading run-scorers in Test cricket

	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
S M Gavaskar (Ind)	125	10,122	236*	51.12	34	45
A R Border (Aus)	136	10,053	306	52.06	25	58
Javed Miandad (Pak)	119	8,589	287*	54.23	23	42
I V A Richards (WI)	121	8,540	291	50.23	24	45
D Gower (Eng)	117	8,231	215	44.25	18	39
G Boycott (Eng)	108	8,114	249*	47.72	22	42
S Sobers (WI)	93	8,032	365*	57.78	26	30
M C Cowdrey (Eng)	114	7,824	182	44.06	22	38

standing, which is huge, not his charisma, which is negligible.

There is nothing forced or affected about Border. He married his childhood sweetheart, Jane, 12 years ago and, at their Brisbane home, they have recently had their third child.

Allan is in many ways the archetypal Aussie bloke, who loves a few beers with his mates, nothing too flash or sophisticated. He is true to himself, right down to the notorious crankiness that afflicts him most obviously when things are going, or threatening to go, wrong.

At such times his expressive face adopts a blank belligerence and he becomes irritably intolerant, often of journalists with whom he customarily has a genial relationship and occasionally of umpires, to whom he is otherwise courteous and understanding.

In Perth, seven years ago, Border's side had just been unexpectedly beaten by England. The red mist was obvious to all in the press conference apart, apparent-

CRICKET: ENGLAND TRANSFER THEIR ATTENTIONS TO THE FIVE-DAY GAME

Atherton prepares himself for testing time ahead

FROM PETER BALL
IN CUTTACK

IT HAS been a frustrating tour for Michael Atherton. He has not played since scoring a solid and important innings of 60 in the opening match against Delhi over a fortnight ago, a tribute to his weeks of pre-tour preparations at Lilleshall. Today, he has the chance to begin the tour in earnest as England turn their attention towards the Test series when they begin a three-day fixture against an Indian Under-25 XI.

"Lilleshall was valuable in some ways, but it makes it a bit redundant when you are trying to reach a peak for the first game and then you end up sitting on your backside for three weeks," Atherton said yesterday.

"With the tour split up in the way it is, it is difficult for the

captain because he has got to use the early games to get people in the one-day side into form, but I would have liked to have carried on playing after the first game because I felt in good order."

Now he has got to virtually restart the tour, with just one match to recapture form before the first Test, in Calcutta, begins on Friday. It is far from an ideal way to prepare for a Test match.

"I practice hard in the nets, that's important, but it is nothing like the real thing," he said. The nerves and the anxiety aren't there. Every batsman needs to spend a time at the crease to find his rhythm, to find his form.

"Most English county players are used to having two or three knocks a week, and ideally you would want to have at least two three-day games before the Test. But this tour is



Atherton: specialist

the victim of modern itineraries."

Atherton is also a victim of the increasing specialisation in international cricket. Players who are labelled one-day specialists resent it, understandably, Atherton has been

given the opposite label, as just a Test player, but he chafes against being pigeon-holed.

"The labels stuck on people are often misleading," he said. "I've played for England in one-day matches. I like to think with some degree of success. I didn't expect to play in the one-day games on this tour because I think the side had been virtually pre-selected before we arrived, and it is a difficult side to break into, but obviously I was disappointed not to play."

He has not been the only one to have little cricket, with Devon Malcolm and, to a lesser extent, the spinners in the same boat. Now the crews change over, with some of the members of the one-day team set to become frustrated

watchers. With Alec Stewart dropping down the order, Atherton at least is almost guaranteed a

Test place. It will be a surprise if the batting line-up today is not the same in Calcutta on Friday.

Whether Malcolm will claim his place looks less certain. The selection of today's side suggests that Jarvis, the fast bowling success of the tour so far, and Lewis will claim two of the team bowling places, with Lewis's somewhat debatable claim as an all-rounder earning him a place ahead of DeFreitas, who was the more impressive in the one-day game.

Lewis and Jarvis accordingly are left out today. Assuming two spinners are required in Calcutta, that leaves Malcolm, DeFreitas and Taylor, who all play today, in competition for the third place in the Test.

ENGLAND XI: G A Gough (captain), M A Atherton, A Stewart, R A Smith, M W Gatting, G A Hick, P A J DeFreitas, D K Sutcliffe, J P Taylor, D E Malcolm, P R Tufnell.

SKIING: HEINZER HEADS FOR THIRD DOWNHILL CROWN

Bournissen opens up title race

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN HAUS IM ENNSTAL

AT THE last stop for women on the World Cup circuit before the world championships, the three-day programme here began yesterday with the downhill the competition needed. The outcome tightened up the race for honours, in contrast to the men's World Cup, in which the main awards are close to being decided.

A win for Franz Heinzer, in front of home Swiss support in Vevey, today — he was fastest in training yesterday — would make his third successive World Cup downhill title as a Marc Girardelli's record fifth overall victory appears. Before yesterday, Katja Seizinger, of Germany, was skiing untroubled towards retaining the women's downhill title and Anita Wachter, of Austria, was 158 points clear in the overall standings. While both still lead, they are now under pressure.

Not a cheer was heard when Chantal Bournissen's victory was announced in the finish area. A Swiss winner in Austria is never welcome and this is the only Austrian leg on the women's tour, so a home victory, either in the second downhill today or in the slalom tomorrow, would be shouted for vociferously by the 2,000 village locals.

Small the population may be, but large is the prize-money. The £36,000 is the most on the European women's circuit. Considering that Bournissen had fallen in training and that her recent results had been poor, she had not seemed the skier most likely to make the £5,500 top prize.

Bournissen, 25, thus cut from treble to double figures Seizinger's World Cup downhill lead. She won by 0.06sec from Warwira Zelenskaja, a Russian enjoying the best result of her five World Cup seasons.

Today, Bournissen will at-



Cutting edge: Julia Snell dances her way to the silver medal in the World Cup freestyle baller event at Lake Placid, in the United States. The victory lifted morale among the British team in an undistinguished season

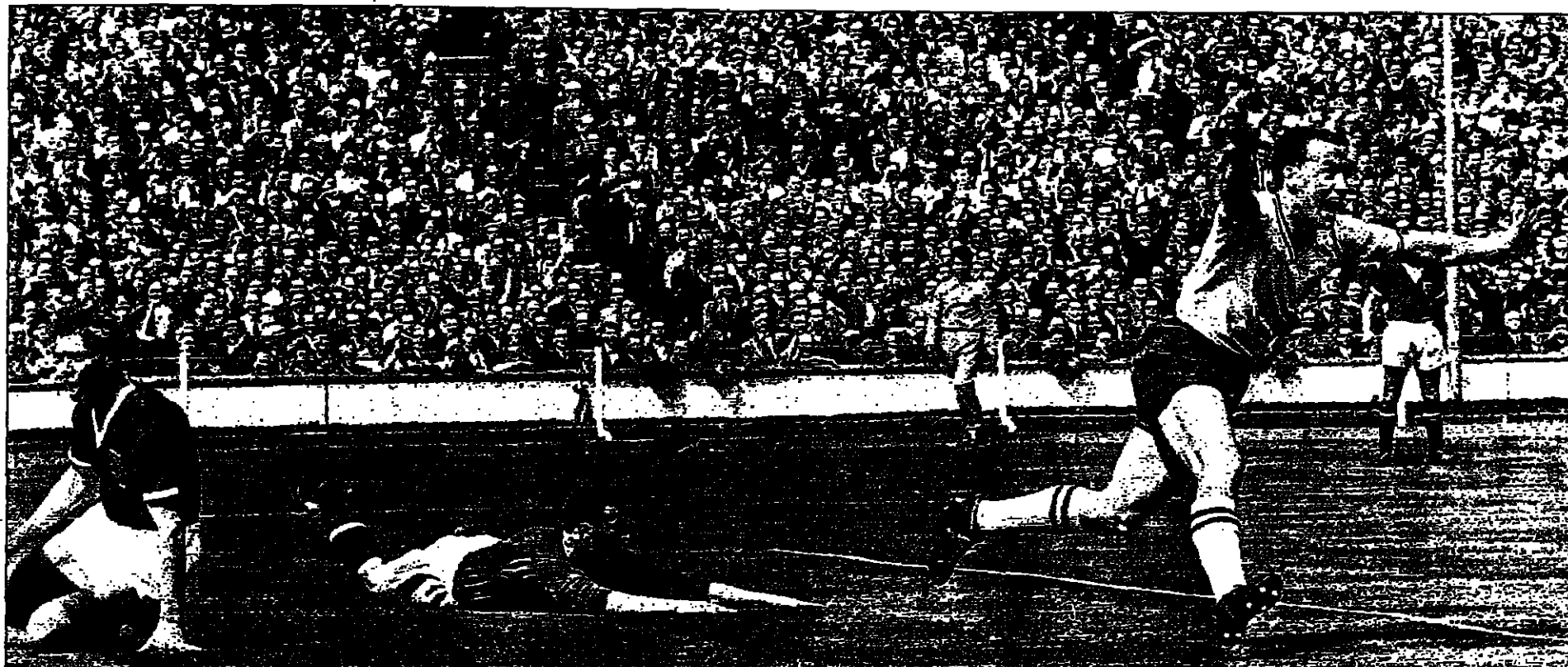
tempt to confirm her form and put herself in good heart for the world championships, less than a fortnight away. Though she was the World Cup downhill champion two seasons ago, she fluffed her lines in the world championships, finishing fourth.

Much the same happened at the Winter Olympic Games last year. Bournissen had looked good for a medal but fell near the finish. At least she went further than Sabine Günther, the Austrian who was third yesterday. This was Günther's best downhill since she crashed out of the Olympics the day before the women's Alpine programme began. The favourite to win the combined, she suffered a back injury in training that

put her in hospital for three weeks. The downhill is Wachter's weakest discipline and she was more uncomfortable at it yesterday than usual. She finished 23rd while Carole Merle, of France, tenth, and Seizinger closed in on her in the overall.

RESULTS: Women's World Cup downhill race. Leading position: 1. C Bournissen (Swi), 1:42.78; 2. S Seizinger (Ger), 1:42.79; 3. S Günther (Aust), 1:42.80; 4. R Wachter (Aust), 1:43.15; 5. H Warwira Zelenskaja (Rus), 1:43.21; 6. R Merle (Fra), 1:43.26; 7. M Smith (Can), 1:43.34; 8. K Lee (USA), 1:43.37; 9. M Voth (Ger), 1:43.38; 10. C Merle (Fra), 1:43.41; 11. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.42; 12. S Wachter (Aust), 1:43.43; 13. S Seizinger (Ger), 1:43.44; 14. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.45; 15. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.46; 16. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.47; 17. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.48; 18. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.49; 19. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.50; 20. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.51; 21. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.52; 22. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.53; 23. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.54; 24. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.55; 25. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.56; 26. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.57; 27. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.58; 28. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.59; 29. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.60; 30. S Günther (Aust), 1:43.61; 31. 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The meeting between Bolton and Wolves tomorrow evokes memories of their Fifties heyday



Dashing a dream: Lofthouse wheels in triumph after scoring Bolton Wanderers' first goal in their 1958 FA Cup final victory over Manchester United

Lost wanderers search for past glories

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

NONE of the weekend's FA Cup fourth-round ties will be dripping with more nostalgia than that at Molineux tomorrow afternoon. There, a century after the Wanderers of Wolverhampton and Bolton first met in the competition, the followers of both clubs will be able to wallow in memories of the same golden age, the Fifties.

Wolves, with the same uncomplicated style now associated principally with Wimbledon, dominated the League in the same way as Liverpool have in modern times. In the middle of the decade, they were even known, unofficially, as champions of the world and, more than once, the elusive double was within their reach.

Although the light did not shine as constantly on Bolton, they featured in two FA Cup finals that will forever illuminate their history and that of the tournament. They had to compete against the emotion generated by Stanley Matthews in 1953 and, five years later, by the remnants of the Busby Babes.

In 1958, on their way to a merciless 2-0 triumph over Manchester United, Bolton were drawn against Wolves, who had never won the affection of the nation even though their achievements had included restoring the English pride which had been torn to shreds by the magical Magyars.

Managed by Stan Cullis, a stern disciplinarian and fitness fanatic known as "The Iron Chancellor", Wolves beat Horwich by the odd goal in five. The visitors from Budapest fielded six of the Hungarians who had within the previous 13 months humiliated England 6-3 at Wembley and 7-1 at home.

Cullis, whose wife did not even know that he was a professional football player, let alone captain of his country, until after their wedding, coldly cultivated a regimental method based on the tactical analysis of Wing Commander Reep, who was based at nearby RAF Bridgnorth. They agreed that attacks should be launched with long balls.

A solid backbone was formed by the likes of Flowers, Slater, Clapp and, most prominently, by one of Cullis's



FA CUP

successors as England captain, Wright. Their passes were invariably aimed towards the wingers - Hancock, with his tiny feet encased in size 5½ boots, and Mullen.

Harry Gregg just after final
Went into Nat's for a beer
Who returned his money and told him
We don't charge goalkeepers here.

Verse provoked by Lofthouse's collision with Gregg in the 1958 final

Between 1953 and 1960, Wolves were champions three times, runners-up twice and third twice. Yet their system failed annually in the Cup and in 1957, they were victims of one of the biggest upsets, knocked out ignominiously in the fourth round by Burnley.

The following year, bound for the first of two successive

titles, Wolves reached the sixth round and were favoured to win at Burnley Park. Apart from drawing there earlier in the League season, they had beaten Bolton by the emphatic margin of 6-1 at home.

But Bolton were led by a voracious predator, Lofthouse, nicknamed "The Lion of Vienna" after scoring a typically courageous winner for England in Austria, was destined to enhance his reputation and

qualified against the heartfelt wishes of the nation.

Bolton had already ended one of Matthews's dreams of collecting a winner's medal under tragic circumstances when the competition resumed after the war. Thirty three spectators lost their lives and more than 400 were injured when Burnley Park's crush barriers gave way a quarter of an hour into a sixth-round tie which was nevertheless completed.

Seven years later, Bolton were within 20 minutes of denying Matthews again but he turned round a 3-1 deficit and transformed the final into an everlasting memorial of his ability.

As against Blackpool in 1953, Lofthouse scored within 90 seconds against a Manchester United side drastically redesigned during the three months after the Munich air disaster. Charlton, one of the pitifully few survivors, hit a post before Lofthouse, robustly and ruthlessly, claimed a winner which would not nowadays be considered legitimate. He forcefully bundled in both the ball and Gregg, United's goalkeeper, who was about to catch it at the second attempt.

WIND DOWNHILL CROW



Hungry Dover set on promotion run

By Walter Gammie

A HUNGER for success, kept sharp by memories of the denial of a place in the G.M. Vauxhall Conference in 1990, has spurred Dover to become the most consistent force in the Beazer Homes League. They meet Watford tomorrow unbeaten in 50 matches at their Crabble ground.

They were, until losing 2-1 at Crawley Town on Tuesday, also unbeaten in the premier division this season. Chris Kinnear, the manager, said: "If somebody had said before the start of the season that we'd lose only one of our first 21 matches, I would have happily settled for it. We've got to look at it as the end of one run and try to start the next run with our next match."

Goals by Dale Jasper and Paul Fishenden gave Crawley their win. "It was a heavy pitch," Kinnear said. "We were always going to struggle to play some of the nice neat football we favour. Those Premier League boys don't know what a bad pitch is. They

should come down to see what we play on in non-league football. It wasn't Crawley's fault, you can't blame them."

Crawley, indeed, had spent £6,000 on drainage in the summer, which had failed to clear the water. John Maggs, the chairman, had helped to spread 20 tonnes of sand before the game. Crawley's victory maintained their impressive home form, one league defeat this season, and the good run under Dave Haining, promoted when Steve Wicks left the club.

Dover will settle for nothing less than winning the league. Their ground is ready, it was ready for the start of the season they were refused promotion because the Conference was unwilling to take them up on a promise of work to be done. "They talk about the pressure on Manchester United. I know how Alex Ferguson feels, but I'm paid 200,000 times less than he is. Kinnear, a teacher at a school in Stepney Green, said,

Aston Villa v Wimbledon

Wimbledon have knocked Villa out of the Cup twice in the last four seasons at Villa Park. Villa are likely to again be without Alderson in attack. Yorke continues to deputise, but Froggatt could be recalled on the wing. Wimbledon have Holdsworth available to partner Fashanu in attack. Jones returns after suspension.

Crewe v Blackburn

Crewe are without six first-teamers, either injured or suspended, and are forced to field four teenagers and two loan signings. Rovers, still lacking Shearer in attack, are untried. Newell, rejected by Crewe as a teenager but a £1 million attacking buy by Rovers, has a point to prove.

Huddersfield v Southend

Mitchell and Dunn are doubtful for Huddersfield. Starbuck and Wright stand by. Southend field the side which drew 1-1 with Newcastle in midweek.

Luton v Derby

Luton retain the team that overcame Bristol City in midweek. Erratic Derby, at their best away from home when they can play their counter-attacking game, could recall Gouloze at right back.

Man Utd v Brighton

Cantona is extremely doubtful for the tie with a hamstring injury. Already without the injured Hughes, United

will move Giggie to a central attacking role. McClair may move forward from midfield. Phelan filling in behind him. Munday, a right back, 20, makes only his second appearance of the season for Brighton at right back in this repeat of the 1983 FA Cup final. Foster, who played in the Cup final replay which Brighton lost ten years ago, adds some nostalgia by appearing in the visitors' defence.

Nottn Forest v Middlesbrough

Deprived by injury of Whyte, Gitsens and Kennaghan in central defence, Middlesbrough could be troubled at the back. Highest, who is cup-tied, and Proctor, injured and once of Forest, are also absent. Forest are untried.

QPR v Man City

Rangers will miss the injured Ferdinand in attack and Wilkins in the midfield. Peacock and Holloway face late fitness tests. City await the result of a late fitness check on Curle.

Rotherham v Newcastle

Rotherham have been beaten only once at Millmoor this season and boast a former Newcastle player in Cunningham, their centre forward. Sheedy is doubtful for Newcastle but has a late fitness check. Bracewell - Sunderland's Wembley captain in the final eight months ago.

Sheff Utd v Hartlepool

Deane seeks to impress the England management with his third hat-trick in three games - no English player

has done that since 1946 - and will hope for some good crosses from Carr, on loan from Newcastle.

Kamara, borrowed from Luton, is sidelined, however, and Rogers or Gannon will replace him. Sport and Bradshaw are ready to stand in for the injured Cork. Hartlepool, who are beset by injuries, had a victory in the High Court yesterday and need another success on the field to help pay off their creditors.

Tranmere v Ipswich

Tranmere, Merseyside's only remaining FA Cup survivor, could be without Newin and Muir as well as their leading scorer, Alchidge, who is suspended. Ipswich must make do without Stockwell, their injured right back.

Norwich v Tottenham

Morgan returns to a Norwich midfield from which Crook, once of Tottenham, is absent through injury. First is missing and Watson seems set to deputise in attack. Sunderland lack the injured Ord but Gray will cover at left back.

Sheff Wed v Sunderland

Wednesday welcome Palmer back in their midfield after injury, but could be without Nilsson at right back. First is missing and Watson seems set to deputise in attack. Sunderland lack the injured Ord but Gray will cover at left back.

Wolves v Bolton

Wolverhampton could be without Birch in the midfield. Bolton, victors over Liverpool, are unchanged for the eighth game in succession.

All replays will be on Wednesday, February 3

Compiled by Louise Taylor



Mike Newell: point to prove at Crewe

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan determined to stock vaults with complete haul

By Christopher Irvine

BRADFORD Northern are not so naive as to think that the acrimony about Wigan's participation in the Sydney will assist their enormous task in the Regal Trophy final today, the last link in rugby league's first grand slam of all five leading competitions by its most successful club.

Wigan, having been thrown out of the tournament 24 hours before, will after all dust down their seven trophy and defend it from February 5 to 7. A reserve squad, which infuriated organisers, has been supplemented by three first-team players, Joe Lydon, Sam Panapa and Andrew Farrar, and been approved in Australia. In turn, the Rugby Football League appeals board last night lifted its ban on Wigan playing a rearranged home league match against Bradford the same weekend.

Wigan have won 17 consecutive cup finals dating back to their 1985 defeat of Hull in the Challenge Cup at Wembley. At no point previously, however, have they had the Challenge Cup, League Championship, Lancashire Cup and Regal Trophy, which they have won on a record five occasions, all deposited in the Central Park vaults.

Such riches are an embarrassment to the claims by rivals that they are catching up. Peter Fox, the Bradford coach, is far from alone in wanting Wigan's monopoly ended for the good of the game. His side, twice winners of the competition, carries the popular vote at Elland Road this afternoon, and is infinitely better than the one mauled 71-10 in the Challenge Cup and 50-8 at the end of last

season, yet the gap remains a wide one.

Wigan are not quite the conquering outfit they were in 1991-2. The loss of Andy Gregory to Leeds and Gene Miles back to Australia has stemmed some of the creative flow. Andrew Farrar, although strong defensively, is hardly the playmaker Miles was in the centre, and Martin Offiah has been little used.

A defeat at St Helens at Christmas that was their worst for 20 years was followed by a home defeat by Warrington. But when demands are at their greatest, Wigan have it within them to rise to the occasion, and in trouncing Hull in the Challenge Cup last weekend, they were familiarly awesome.

With Andy Platt's broken hand surviving a fitness test yesterday, Wigan's pack looks ominously strong, particularly as Bradford's front row will be missing Jon Hamer, a key component of their revival. Attack is Bradford's best policy. The forwards take route one, every play is supported, and from Deryck Fox, whose tussle at scrum half with Shaun Edwards should be one to relish, come the speedy passes, high kicks and little dabs that are the likely combination for unlocking Wigan's defence.

"It's the toughest game by far, but some team's got to stop them hogging everything," Fox said. "Maybe we're the ones."

BRADFORD NORTHERN: D. Watson, T. Marchant, S. McGowan, D. Shefferson, R. Simpson, S. Surridge, D. Fox, D. Hebb, S. Noble, D. Clark, R. Powell, P. Medley, K. Fairbrother, D. Hanson, S. Jones, T. Anderson, K. Murray, A. Boothby. WARRINGTON: S. Harrison, J. Robinson, D. Bell, A. Farrar, M. Offiah, F. Edwards, S. Edwards, M. Cowie, M. Demmel, A. Fox, D. Sedds, W. McOmish, P. Clarke, S. Panapa, J. Lydon. Referee: J. Holdsworth.

Warrington must honour fixture

WARRINGTON have been ordered to play their televised league game with St Helens, the leaders of the Stages Bitter championship, on February 5, after the club postponed the fixture in a further twist to the row over the World Sevens (Christopher Irvine writes).

The Rugby Football League (RFL) appeals board last night ruled that Warrington had no right to postpone the game because one of their players, Kevin Ellis, had been selected by Wales to play in the tournament in Sydney the same weekend.

St Helens, who had been preparing a legal case for compensation, reminded the RFL that a fixture could not be called off unless a side has four players on international duty. Widnes, despite having Jonathan Davies, Adrian Hadley, John Devereux and Paul Moriarty representing Wales, are going ahead with their home date with Hull on February 7.

"We want to avoid a fixture backlog with the Challenge Cup round the corner," Peter Wilkinson, the Widnes secre-

tary, said. "It also makes more financial sense to play on a Sunday rather than to rearrange the match for midweek."

Jon Sharp, the Hull loose forward, has been banned for two games for a head-high tackle on Martin Offiah in the Challenge Cup tie against Wigan last weekend, and will miss the home game with Castleford tomorrow.

Wakefield Trinity should move into the top eight at the expense of Leigh, the bottom-placed club. Nigel Wright, 18, one of the game's most exciting prospects, switches to centre after missing two matches, while the Lancashire club give a debut to John Gunning, a former Great Britain amateur international stand-off half, who was signed this week from Leigh East.

After four successive league defeats, Sheffield Eagles must arrest the slide against Salford, their fellow strugglers, who have recalled David Young, the Wales prop, and Jason Critchley, the England centre, into their squad for the trip.

HOCKEY

St Albans lose their indoor monopoly

ST ALBANS' five-year reign as national indoor champions came to an end at Crystal Palace yesterday when they lost 5-4 to Stourport in a thrilling match (Sydney Friskin writes). It ended when Jennings failed to convert a penalty stroke which would have levelled at 5-5 and sent the match into a shoot-out.

Stourport, who led 5-1 early in the second half, appeared to have lost their grip on the match after Roberts had failed with a penalty stroke which would have given them a 6-2 lead. St Albans made a fighting recovery with two goals by Jennings and one by Gibbins which put them one goal behind. For most of the second half St Albans took off their goalkeeper Langston and used Malcolm Day as a kicking back.

Wilton, from Hull, and East Grinstead qualified for

the semi-finals at the expense of Blackheath and Harborne respectively. Wilton earned their passage with a smooth 7-3 victory over Blackheath, Steve Moor scoring three goals. Humphrey two and Main and Sheardown adding one each.

Blackheath, winners in 1977, failed to settle down despite a spirited effort by Steve Haines who scored all their goals. East Grinstead's experience helped them to a 6-3 win against Harborne, who led 2-1. Harridge converting two penalty strokes in answer to van Asselt's goal for East Grinstead. Goals by Zander and Head and another by van Asselt put East Grinstead 4-2 ahead by half-time, followed by further goals by van Asselt, from a corner, and Zander.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: Blackheath 3, Wilton 7; East Grinstead 6, Harborne 3; Stourport 5, St Albans 4; Old Louisa 5, Farnham 5.

Late developer with her sights turned on Olympic Games



Mole all-rounder

IF ANYONE is qualified to succeed in sport, it is Philippa Mole: her life revolves around it. She is a development officer for the national coaching federation in Reading, a freelance sports psychologist, a presenter with her own sports show on the local cable television network and is involved with the Sports Council's women-in-sport media group.

With all this behind her and former careers including gymnast, synchronised swimmer and 100-metre hurdler, she is now focusing her attention on the Winter Olympic Games in 1998 and

Alix Ramsay discovers a Mole in the hierarchy of British women's bobsleigh

the women's bobsleigh. Mole has come late to the sport at the age of 27, but in the few months since she first tried her luck as a brakeman, she has made her mark.

It was while she was working for the British Bobsleigh Association (BBA) as a psychologist that Mole first met her driver and partner, Gillian Cooke. Cooke was looking for a brakeman and

Mole decided to give it a try. "Everything seemed to go very well because of my sprint training," she said. That was six months ago.

Training facilities, however, are understandably limited. When Gillian and I started, we had no coach so we developed a very odd technique," Mole said. With only two practice sessions together, they took part against the men in the BBA push championships - a test of the brakeman's start power - on a synthetic track. Having proved themselves, but still never having set foot on an ice track, Mole and

Cooke wanted to test themselves against the rest of the world in a World Cup event in Calgary. "It was all arranged at the last minute and self-funded," Mole said.

With a new start technique, Mole and Cooke were the fastest in practice. "It worked so well that the Canadians copied our style," Mole said. But with a medal very much on the cards, disaster struck. Halfway down the track and going at around 80 miles an hour, they crashed.

They are now trying to raise the money to compete in the British open champi-

onships in La Plagne next month and another World Cup. "In La Plagne, we will be racing against the men and would just like to hold our own," Mole said. "But in a World Cup, we will be going for a medal."

Mole needs £10,000 to finance next season. "Potentially we have got a great team," she said. "The 1998 Olympics is a great motivating factor. I want to learn to drive the bob as well and I know that I can find a faster brakeman than me, which, together with my running speed, would make an Olympic medal a real possibility."

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High Court lets Sheffield trip go ahead

Hartlepool given permission to play cup-tie

By JOHN GOODBODY
AND LOUISE TAYLOR

THE FA Cup has kept Hartlepool United alive. Two days after being compulsorily wound up, the second division club was reprimanded in the High Court yesterday and will play Sheffield United in the fourth round at Bramall Lane today, the biggest pay day in Hartlepool's 85-year history.

Hartlepool, who knocked out Crystal Palace of the Premier League in the previous round, are enjoying their best season on the field. They will continue their struggle for financial survival off it by collecting at least £55,000 from an estimated 19,000 crowd against another Premier League team this afternoon. But unless Hartlepool progress in the cup and sell their most talented players, their reprieve will be temporary. They are understood to have 14 days in which to satisfy their creditors.

"Hartlepool will need to find the money quickly," Andy Williamson, the League's assistant secretary said last night.

Garry Gibson, the Hartlepool chairman, who recruited



FA CUP

Mel Stein, Paul Gascoigne's legal adviser, to oppose the winding-up order over debts of £263,607 in the Companies Court, said after the hearing yesterday: "Our message to the supporters is that we would like to see as many of them at Sheffield as possible: the more the merrier, given the fact that we are on a percentage of the gate receipts." At least 27 coachloads of supporters are expected to make the trip.

The Hartlepool players left for Sheffield immediately after the result of the private hearing in the High Court, before Mr Justice Lindsay, was known.

Stuart Bagnall, the club's chief executive, described the players' mood as "buoyant". "They never doubted that the game would go on," he said.

"Neither did the staff. However, it has been an extremely difficult few days. We tried to get on with things as normal but the tension has been there. Now we are confident we will

survive beyond this. Everybody is pulling for the club and things can only get better."

Stein, who left the High Court yesterday before the verdict, said earlier that the club would come up with the money to pay their debts within 14 days.

Paul Woodhouse, the Sheffield United chief executive, said: "We always felt the Receiver would wish to give Hartlepool the chance to earn the extra revenue the game would generate, plus any further money if the tie went to a replay."

Hardship is nothing new for Hartlepool, who have applied for re-election to the Football League a record 14 times. Remembered as the club where Brian Clough cut his managerial teeth in the late Sixties, they have spent their life in the lower divisions.

However, the present problems are the most serious, although ironically occurring at a time when the club is almost as high in the League as at any other time in its history. Hartlepool are eighth in the table and challenging for promotion.

Their troubles came to a head when a Surrey firm, which makes the perspex hoods to cover the dug-outs at the Victoria ground and reserves during matches, lodged a winding-up order.

Gibson, the club chairman, said that the hoods were constantly blowing away and initially refused to pay the £4,000 bill. However, Hartlepool say that they are settling this debt, although there is a further dispute over legal costs of £7,000.

Gibson, an extrovert property developer, says that the matter is an "administrative cock-up, a misunderstanding between two solicitors". The club also says that £160,000 will be available to other creditors within three weeks.

Hartlepool owe the Inland Revenue £196,607 and Customs and Excise £67,000 in VAT payments. Their financial problems also seem to be worse than their official debt of £263,307. Hartlepool Council owns the Victoria ground and Cleveland County Council is owed £49,000 in unpaid police bills.

Hartlepool have tried to make economies. Since succeeding the late Cyril Knowles two years ago, Alan Murray, the Hartlepool team manager, has sold £750,000 worth of players.

Gibson, a "larger-than-life" figure at 6ft 7in and 20 stone, is outwardly relaxed, pointing out that Newcastle United, their neighbours in the North-east, are £6 million in debt yet talking about spending £4 million on players. However, Newcastle do have Sir John Hall, a multi-millionaire, as their chairman.

Wanderers return, page 31
Match guide, page 31



On the right track: Phillippa Mole, left, and Gillian Cooke, Britain's leading female bobsleighters, practise yesterday in the cold of Thorpe Park for the national championships. Olympic goal, page 31. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Lewis makes bid to take on Foreman

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THERE were movements on both sides of the divide in the world of heavyweight boxing yesterday. Lennox Lewis, Britain's WBC champion, offered to box George Foreman for at least \$8 million, while Riddick Bowe, the WBA and IBF champion, signed a five-bout deal with ITV and said he may give title chances to Frank Bruno and Herbie Hide, the British pretenders.

Lewis's promoters, Main Events, released details of his offer to Foreman in New York. Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, sent Foreman the offer earlier this week and set yesterday as the deadline for Foreman to accept the bout, which Maloney said would be held in the United States.

Maloney said the deadline was to prevent his offer from becoming "a pawn in negotiations" for a Foreman-Tommy Morrison or a Foreman-Bowe fight. Bob Arum, who has promoted some of Foreman's fights, and Foreman's adviser, Ron Weathers, said in reply that Foreman was interested in fighting Lewis but that he was committed to fighting Morrison in April.

The letter from Arum and Weathers said: "Indeed, if you wish, we could also discuss a Lewis-Morrison championship fight should Tommy beat George in April. This is a positive step that you have taken and I am sure it can lead to benefits on all sides." Foreman said yesterday from his home in Houston: "Nobody's told me a thing — unless, of course, they are looking for some publicity."

Foreman, 44, the world heavyweight champion from 1973-4, returned to the ring after a ten-year retirement. After a string of victories against mostly inferior fighters, Foreman lost a title bout to the former undisputed heavyweight champion, Evander Holyfield, in April 1991.

Maloney said Lewis was scheduled to fight the WBC No. 1 contender, Tony Tucker, on April 24, but a spokesman for Main Events said that, although the Tucker fight was likely to take place, a date had not officially been set.

Lewis became the WBC champion after Bowe, who beat Holyfield last November, did not agree to fight the Briton in his first defence and

the WBC stripped the title from him.

Bowe will make the first defence of his WBA and IBF titles against Michael Dokes in New York on February 6, for which coverage will be shared between ITV and BBC. His next four bouts will be shown exclusively on ITV in a deal worth a seven-figure sum.

Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, speaking from New York after signing the deal with ITV, said the unbeaten 21-year-old Bowe was a "rising tiger" and suggested that seasoned campaigners, Bruno, could get his chance. "Bowe and Bruno are two giant men who would set the boxing world on fire," he said. "It's a certainty that one of them would be put to sleep."

Newman called the offer by the Lewis camp for a fight against Foreman a "public relations exercise". Newman had on Wednesday repeated his insistence that Lewis would have to renounce the WBC title if he wanted to fight Bowe.

ITV's head of sport, Bob Burrows, said the deal with Bowe "reinforces our position as the No. 1 British boxing channel. Riddick feels it is important for him to appear on a major terrestrial channel and be seen by millions of viewers, instead of by a small audience of satellite."

Later this month, ITV launches a six-week series of Saturday night domestic bouts including world-title defences by Nigel Benn, Chris Eubank and Pat Clinton, and Colin McMillan's comeback. Burrows said: "This shows our commitment to top-class boxing at home and abroad."



Lewis made offer

Leeds declare their interest in Southall

HOWARD Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, has enquired about the availability of Neville Southall, of Everton (Ian Ross writes). Informal talks between the clubs were held this week and, although the Welsh international still has more than three years of his contract to run at Goodison Park, a deal could be arranged if Leeds were to organise a package attractive to Howard Kendall, the Everton manager.

Despite his obvious pedigree, Southall, 34, is valued at just £1 million, a fee the Yorkshire club would struggle to place. With Wilkinson unlikely to be given permission by his board to make a straight cash offer, he will be forced to

offer a player — or players — in part exchange should he decide to pursue his interest.

If Kendall does decide that he is ready to sell a goalkeeper he has long insisted is the most competent in world football, he could be tempted to sanction a deal involving Steve Hodge, the England midfielder player who has been unable to command a regular first-team place at Elland Road since his £900,000 transfer from Nottingham Forest.

Robert Chase, the Norwich City chairman, has imposed a transfer embargo on his players as they pursue a UEFA Cup place. He yesterday rejected a £500,000 offer from Blackburn Rovers for Darryl Sutch, a midfielder player.

Renault say Williams entry backed by law

By STEPHEN SLATER

THE battle over red tape surrounding the entry of the Canon Williams team in this year's Formula One world championship moved up a gear yesterday when Renault Sport, which provides the team's engines, quoted international law in support of the team owner, Frank Williams.

Williams admitted that "an administrative error" had led to his team failing to provide Fisa, the championship organiser, with the entry forms before the November 15 deadline last year, but said that the forms were registered the following day. Fisa rules state that as a "late entrant",

the permission of all other competing teams is required before Williams can race; permission that has been vetoed by the Benetton and Minardi teams in Italy.

Renault Sport said that it was "not at all worried" about the validity of the team's entry. "Williams inform us that their entry forms were registered on Monday, November 16, 1992," a spokesman said. "If Fisa considers Williams's registration to be outside the time limit, it would mean they ignore the law."

"In particular, article 5 of the European Convention on the Calculation of Deadlines holds that when a deadline expires on a Sunday, it is

extended to include the very next working day."

However, the real reason for Williams's embarrassment appears to stem from a turbulent meeting of the Formula One Constructors Association (Foca) in London last week.

Williams was one of several teams that made a stand against proposed changes in the regulations, which included vetoing a plan to use a pace-car to close up the field should the leader gain a lead of 12 seconds or more over his rivals. This would have meant that at last year's British Grand Prix, the pace-car would have been used to slow Nigel Mansell after only six laps.

It appears that by opposing

Williams's readmission, some teams are attempting to force a change in the rules to allow decisions to be made on a simple majority.

Williams-Renault at least had some good news yesterday when anti-smoking campaigners agreed to drop legal action against it after a French court ordered the team to pay FF30 million in damages for breaking the laws on tobacco advertising. Williams ran the risk of having his cars seized if it went to France, the misdemeanour being simply that it was shown on French television competing in last year's Australian Grand Prix.

"They want to make a fresh start and have agreed to drop

legal action against the Williams-Renault team and other Formula One teams," said Frederique Bredin, said the agreement should allow the French Grand Prix to go ahead as long as distinctive brand logos are not displayed.

Of the other British Formula One teams not named on the 1993 entry list on Thursday, Pacific Racing confirmed that it had not expected to be named even though it is meeting the requirements for a prospective new team.

But it appears that time has run out for Brabham, which was absent from the final races of 1992 because of financial problems.

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Old friends offer aid to Gould

Bobby Gould, manager of Coventry City, is rapidly becoming the Basil Fawlty of football. Less than two weeks ago, he was thrown out of his dug-out by a referee, and last Saturday went berserk with yet another ref. On this occasion, the official had disallowed a goal his side scored, and given them a penalty instead. The penalty was saved. Not good for the blood pressure, that sort of thing.

Now the players of one of Gould's former clubs, Wimbledon (who else?) have sent him a present after a brisk whirlwind. This is a "tear-apart stress doll". It is 18 inches high, dressed (what else?) in referee's kit, and its arms, legs and head can be torn off whenever the owner is overwhelmed with a spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling.

Some might recommend Transcendental Meditation, or tai chi as more suitable ways of handling such violent feelings, but football has always held to the belief that the tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction.

Ire of the tiger

The American basketball player and Dream Team veteran, "Sir" Charles Barkley (the round mound of rebound) has also been riding the tigers of wrath this week. He exchanged words with a referee at the end of a recent match between his own side, Phoenix Suns, and the New York Knicks.

The official responded to the outburst with the words: "This is going to cost you money." The official walked off. Barkley set off in mad pursuit, attempted to burdle the scorer's table, tripped, fell, got up and chased the referee to the locker-room before security guards and team-mates managed to restrain him. "Like money can control me?" Barkley said afterwards, still outraged. "Give me a break."



SIMON BARNES

Sporting Diary

□ The female television sports presenter looks like becoming a phenomenon of the Nineties, as the woman-friendly sports programme becomes a new goal for television folk. Can we really face a female David Coleman?

Big potatoes

Here is the latest transfer news from Poland. Hustle, of Warsaw, have just acquired two players from Kier. The fee was a lorry-load of potatoes and a video recorder. A television set also came up in discussions, but in the end it stayed in Poland. I'm sure the newly acquired players will soon be showing the appropriate skills — chipping the goalkeeper from 25 yards, that sort of thing...



Saving graces

"... a mass of black mud, the ball greasy as a plum pudding, and my head racked with neuralgia after a sleepless night of verse-making. I would fumble badly — and retrieve the ball from the net."

"They'd call me the young cat. I suppose I was agile and a good shot stopper. I was so confident in my angles. All that came from Bert." The first is Vladimir Nabokov, the second is Fred Davies. Both are goalkeepers, naturally. Fred achieving somewhat greater eminence, at least as a goalie, than Vlad.

The quote from Fred comes from a privately printed book called *In Keeping With Wolves* by Charlie Bamforth. Bamforth has spoken to 24 men who have kept goal for Wolverhampton Wanderers: Bob Wilson, Bert Williams, Jim Barron, Phil Parkes, Geoff Sidebottom, and on, and on. It takes a goalkeeper to launch so quixotic a venture proceeds go to "diabetics and the church roof at Wisborough Green".

Copies are available from Charlie Bamforth, Vincent House, Billingshurst Road, Wisborough Green, West Sussex, RH14 0DZ; price £7.50 plus 64p p and p.

Lords go by bus

The MCC's David Gower meeting takes place on Wednesday. No doubt we should consider this a grass-roots uprising: ordinary folk rise up to tell the arrogant self-appointed mandarins of cricket what the cricket fan on the St John's Wood omnibus thinks. Among the six speakers for and against the motion, we have Lord Bonham-Carter, Lord Bramall, Lord Gilmour and Lord Griffiths.

World renown

How strange is the spell that English football casts across the world. Yeovil were the subject of a two-hour programme on Hungarian television as they fought their FA Cup battle with Arsenal. The club even has a letter from Australia, making the claim that "everyone is asking about Yeovil".

COMPETITION
CHANCE TO
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WHAT TO WEAR

Dressing up for motherhood

Page 11



PROPERTY

Quinlan Terry in Regent's Park

Page 13



RITES OF PASSAGE

Only weeds blub at prep school

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NIGELLA
LAWSON ON
THE 1970s
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WEEKEND

3

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 23 1993

Over-exposure in Provence

Peter Mayle has
already ruined life
in the Lubéron.
Paul Eddy thinks
— and the television
series will make
matters worse

As readers of *A Year in Provence* already know, the canny and oh-so-colourful masons of the Lubéron are rarely idle. Having restored Peter Mayle's house to honey-coloured perfection — and, along the way, provided Mr Mayle with both his main characters and his plot — they have since brought two new additions to the landscape of Menerbes. Like Mr Mayle, these additions are not universally welcomed in the village.

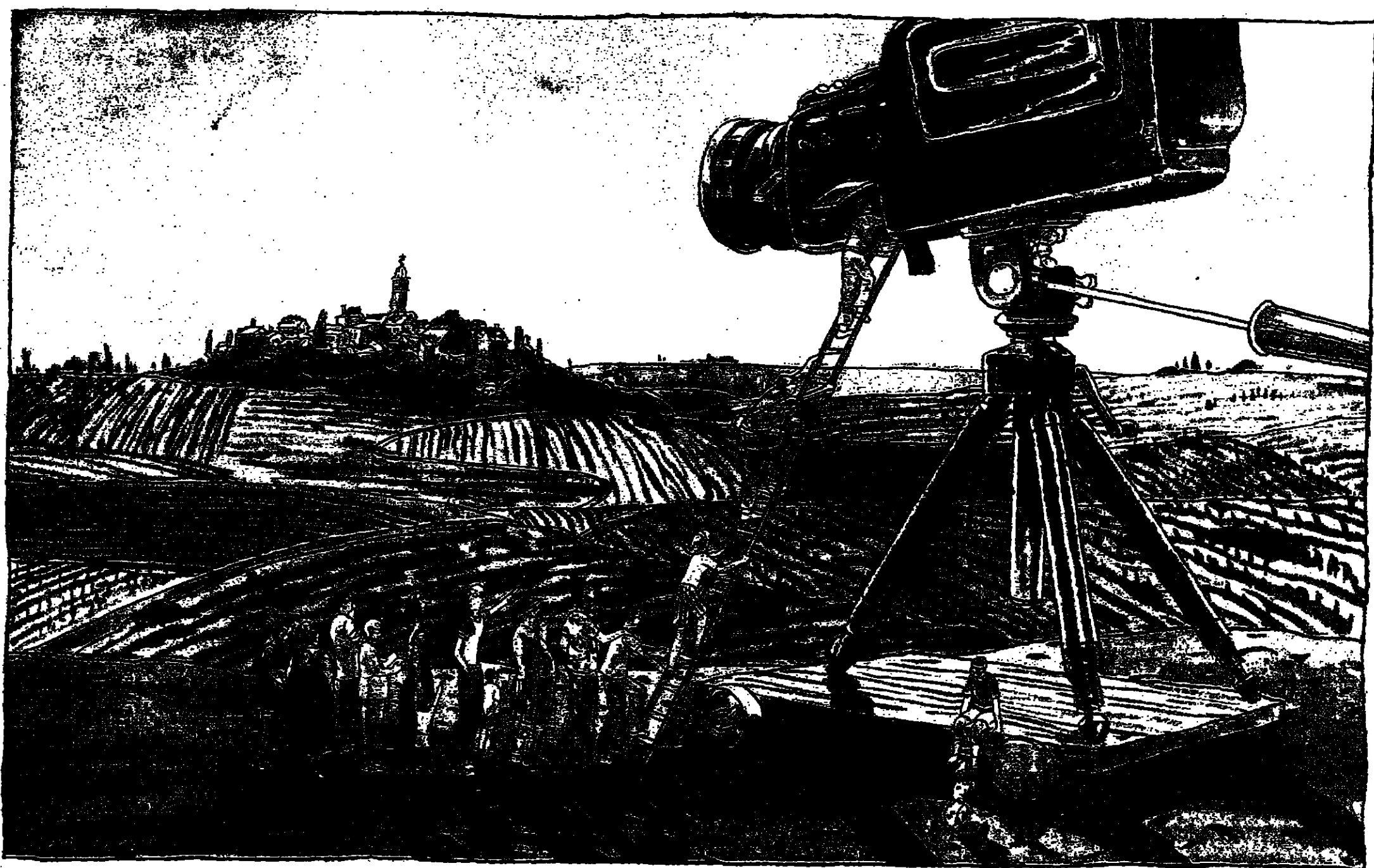
Confirming the suspicion that change is in the air, we have a new *salle des fêtes*, a grandiose village hall. Since it vaguely resembles Heathrow's Terminal 4 in appearance, it is not entirely in keeping with a medieval hill village. Thanks to the errant central heating system, it sounds rather like an airport, too. Those whose houses overlook it can lie awake at night listening to what sounds like the growl of a Boeing 747's turbine while pondering the fact that the cost of it has left Menerbes with a budget deficit that is, per capita, only slightly less impressive than that of the United States.

But it is the second addition — the *Domaine de la Citadel*, Menerbes' new winery and wine museum — that provokes the most concern, at least in me. This time there can be no complaints about the architecture, which is so sympathetic to its surroundings as to make the buildings practically invisible. The interior design is imaginative and stylish. This, in short, is a showplace and is rumoured to have cost its owner more than £1 million to build and equip. What worries me is that the owner is extremely confident of recouping his investment.

This year alone, he predicts, some 85,000 people will visit his *Domaine de la Citadel*, and Menerbes. They will come here between Easter and the end of September, at the rate of several thousand a week, and most of them will be British, drawn down the *autoroute du soleil* like pilgrims to Mecca by the BBC's adaptation of Mr Mayle's Disneyesque portrait of Provence.

Other than the winery, they will find little to detain them in Menerbes. Our two restaurants are not worth the detour: the *Café du Progrès* is purely functional; the gates of the *citadel* that withstood the Catholic siege of 1573-1579 remain firmly closed, as, for the most part, do the doors of the 14th-century church, because Menerbes has no priest. There is no food or flea market, no *salon de thé* and, as yet, no souvenir shop. All Menerbes does have is spectacular views of the Lubéron and peace and quiet — though it is, of course, axiomatic that peace must evaporate when tourists outnumber residents by a ratio of 100 to 1.

Judging by the past two summers



— when those exposed to Mr Mayle's fantasy numbered mere hundreds of thousands, not millions — they will quickly become bored with the scenery.

Then will begin the business of seeking Mr Mayle, or directions to his house, or failing that — for Mr Mayle rarely ventures out into the streets of Menerbes to meet his fans, and the post office no longer gives out his address — they will seek to identify Mr Mayle's characters, staring at villagers as though they were actors on a film set. The bolder ones will press their faces up against our windows and say, as one woman did last summer, "Look, Stan, there's one of them having its lunch."

Although we have never met, Mr Mayle and I do not get on. This, he believes, because I and some other expatriates hold a "proprietary attitude" towards Menerbes, as if "residence for ten or 15 years qualifies them to decide who can come here". As he sees it, we blame him for ruining what we regard as our back yard by provoking what threatens to become a tourist invasion, and I can be relied on to give "a couple of smelly quotes" to any and every visiting British journalist sent here to write about anti-Mayle sentiment.

There is some truth to that, but the resentment goes much deeper

than pure self-interest. Seen from here, *A Year in Provence* is not an "engaging diary... stylish, witty and delightfully readable" but an absurd parody. Worse, to my mind, it is a condescending, rather nasty little book because it transforms real and mostly decent people into unrecognisable caricatures.

Above all else, to my mind, Mr Mayle patronises the French. He is the ever-gentle, ever-tolerant, cultured Englishman living in a honey-coloured Provence (everything in Mr Mayle's world is honey-coloured) that is otherwise occupied by officious bureaucrats and by mendacious if lovable peasants who never mean what they say, who renege on deals, who cheat the authorities on every possible occasion, puzzle pastis and drive like homicidal maniacs, and who suffer en masse from raging hypochondria, which they treat with suppositories.

They are not the people we know. Take, for one example, Georges, the proprietor of Menerbes' *Café du Progrès*, which has been much maligned by Mr Mayle. To him it is "an interior decorator's nightmare", with mismatched furniture, gloomy paintwork and a disgusting lavatory that "splutters and gurgles often and noisily". Georges

himself is "gruff" and his dogs are "indiscreetly matted".

There is, however, another side to the story that Mr Mayle has missed. The *Café du Progrès* is the village pub, but also the *tabac*, the newsagent, the photocopy shop, the distributor of road-fund licences, and the unofficial employment exchange for agricultural workers.

It is open at least 14 hours a day, every day, and, whatever it lacks in interior décor, it is central to the year-round life of the village. Georges does not cater much for tourists because, in the scheme of things, tourists and the likes of Mr Mayle are of little consequence to the café's existence.

But to those of us who, unlike Mr Mayle, make a point of regularly spending some of our money in the village, Georges is indispensable. He goes to much trouble to supply the difficult-to-get newspapers and magazines we require, at no great profit to himself. When my car breaks down, he is the first under the bonnet and will not quit until he has found and fixed the fault. He invites me on fishing trips, and when the first tomatoes of the season arrive, he will smother them in fresh basil and insist that I share his plate for lunch.

If Georges is sometimes "gruff", perhaps that is because his wife has had one of her bad days. She tends

to have bad days: she has been seriously ill for years, fighting a long battle in which suppositories are totally irrelevant.

Mr Mayle appears to know none of this. That is because, although he lives just outside Menerbes, he seems not to spend much time here and certainly does not linger. Perhaps he occasionally dashes in to gain what he calls his "first impressions" and then retreats to his honey-coloured tower to produce his platitudes and his stereotypes.

In my view, he writes cruelly about people he does not appear to know and apparently cares little about, to his great profit, to the amusement of his readers no doubt, but at his neighbours' — and his neighbours' — expense.

And having held them up to not-so-gentle ridicule, he will now bring down on their heads an invasion they did not ask for, and which I do not believe they want.

Some of Mr Mayle's detractors held modest hopes that the BBC adaptation of *A Year in Provence* would temper his trite saga into something more realistic, but reports from the set last year were not encouraging.

Provence, it seems, will still be occupied by wily peasants and officious bureaucrats. They will wear berets and carry baguettes

and drive their small Renaults in reckless emulation of Alain Prost. The actors will, I'm sure, say "pas normale" whenever the sun goes in and build entire conversations round the words "ca va": the air will be thick with the smoke of Gauloises and echo with the sound of pastis glasses banging on the bar.

And Mr Mayle, as portrayed by John Thaw, will doubtless make his smug progress through the seasons, ever-gentle, ever-tolerant,

ever-condescending towards those canny, oh-so-colourful masons and their funny local mores.

It will, I fear, be as fictional as *The Archers*, but less real and totally one-dimensional. In Mr Mayle's everyday story of French peasant folk, the only characters, save himself, are Joe and Eddie Grundy.

But the food will be wonderful, of course.
● *A Year in Provence* begins on BBC1 at the end of February.



ked by law

Unfit for the survival of the fattest

Spending the weekend with friends in London recently, we were startled to see our host tucking into his breakfast: a can of Coke and three thick slabs of white bread and butter accompanied the central dish, full English breakfast or "death platter" of fried egg, bacon, sausage and black pudding.

Gerry explained why he was deliberately bulking on the poundage to his already substantial frame. "It's so hard to lose weight yet it's really easy to put it on," he said. "So I thought I'd just try and get really fat instead of trying to get really thin because that way at least I'd feel I had achieved something."

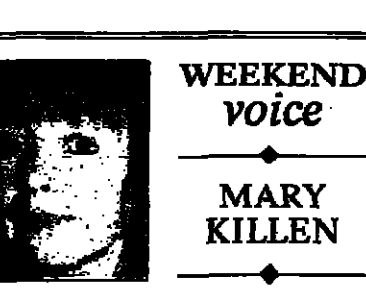
All of us around the table laughed warmly and felt a wave of redoubled affection for Gerry. As the writer Princess Elizabeth Bibesco said: "How much easier it is to make pets of our friends' weaknesses than to put up with their strengths."

The eat, drink and be merry philosophy has gained purchase recently with many gluttons from the thirtysomething age group who are refusing to fall into line with the health gurus. But it is no wonder that waistlines swell at this stage of

life, when people have more money to consume delicious things in the first place. Then, your body becomes like a sort of "roach motel": those cardboard boxes used by Americans to catch cockroaches. "Roaches check in, but they don't check out!" the label reads. Equally, for the aging eater, food checks in but it doesn't check out.

Eat two ounces of toast and you're another two ounces fatter for the rest of your life. No point in exercising or dieting unless you turn it into a full-time obsession, as no lasting difference will be realised. Rosemary Conley's series of *Thin Thighs in 30 Days* books may have sold millions of copies, but there are disproportionately few numbers of women with thin thighs to be seen in the streets.

Another reason why dieters over 30 lose resolve is because they have been disillusioned so often in the past. The news that polysaturated spreads are now bad for you instead of good did not surprise my husband, who has always used actual knobs of butter and masses of salt when cooking — a simple device to ensure that any dish is



WEEKEND
voice
—
MARY
KILLEN

pronounced absolutely incredible by those who consume it. "Next week who knows what the health experts will recommend?" he says cavalierly, dipping his finger into the salt cellar and sucking it. "Perhaps those little dishes of dripping with burnt bits in them which were so much a feature of our parents' bridges."

Like Gerry, he is, unsurprisingly, now carrying excess poundage but is always keen to blame others for his own faults ("why did you let me smoke for so many years?"). He now blames his fondness for sex and helpings on a childhood experience. According to his story, a favourite aunt used to invite the family to Sunday lunch for roast chicken with pinhead oatmeal

stuffing and home-made bread sauce. A love for these things was instilled early, but his most important memory is of his aunt "going back to the carcass resting on the sizzling electric hotplate on a Victorian sideboard and, while pretending to clear up, continuing to tear strips of crispy skin off the chicken and stuff them greedily into her mouth."

I recently had lunch in Soho with an extremely thin girl who was 5ft 8in tall and weighed about 7st 10lb. Her figure was perfect from a girl's point of view, but, I would have thought, rather too walking-stick and knobby for a man to enjoy cuddling. "Oh no, my face looks so puffy!" she said, looking at herself in the mirror.

"Puffy?" I said. "Don't be ridiculous. You must mean sockeye." She ordered a normal amount of food and ate it like a normal person. "How come you can eat so much food and keep so thin?" I asked. "Well, I'm really into exercise, and I go to the **** centre every night and go on the Stairmaster for an hour and a half."

"An hour and a half every night just pretending to walk upstairs? What about the boredom?" "Oh, I listen to my Walkman, you know. I read. I really enjoy it. The time goes by really quickly."

Anyone who knows me will know that, despite my bravado, in fact I have been deeply depressed about my own figure for years. And so I left the restaurant feeling deeply inadequate. How could I ever identify with someone who could spend an hour and a half on a Stairmaster while I was spending an hour and a half eating peanuts and drinking wine?

Later that night, I saw Gerry and told him the story. "Hang on a minute," he said. "Did you say the **** centre? That's so weird. My sister just stopped going there because she said there was a mad woman on the Stairmaster every night for about an hour and a half. It worried her so much that anyone could be so obsessive about her figure that she's actually stopped going in case she becomes like it."

My mother-in-law listened to us discussing the difficulty of losing weight and came up with a brilliant solution. She said: "Why don't you just eat normal amounts of food?"

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RHINE ~ MOSELLE ~ ELBE ~ DANUBE

Juice up your vegetables

Frances Bissell finds new ways to pep up the traditional old accompaniments



TODAY'S vegetable recipes are versatile. They can be served hot, cold or warm, as salads or starters, as light main courses, or accompaniments to the main course. Follow a soup or precede a pasta course with them for a satisfying, wholesome meal, particularly with a thick slice or two of chewy bread.

Vegetable dishes are best partnered with white wines, mellow and fruity rather than austere; I choose Muscat d'Alsace, rather than Muscadet.

Last year, books on "juicing" were best-sellers in America. The beneficial effects of multi-vegetable drinks were highlighted, but it quickly became evident that vegetable juices could be used in other ways: as a base for sauces, soups, dressings, vinaigrettes, marinades.

I now have a juicer attachment for my food processor which works well, on the centrifuge principle. Beetroot, celery, watercress, carrot and onion have been particularly successful. Celery and onion make very good marinades for fish or poultry, for example.

Vegetable juice can be made without a juicer. Parsley, watercress, rocket and other herbs can be pounded to a juice in a mortar, with a little salt added to bruise them and release the liquid more readily. If you have a blender or food processor, you can make a good quality juice from other vegetables. Celery, for example, just needs to be roughly chopped. Carrots and beetroot should be peeled and grated. Onions should be peeled and chopped. Put the vegetable in the bowl of the machine with about 1/2pt/70ml water and blend or process for a few seconds until mashed. Force the juice through a fine sieve, pressing hard to obtain as much of the essence as possible.

The first recipe, a salad, is a pleasing combination of greens: pale jade of avocado, emerald of kiwi and the rich, dark green of watercress. Some cooks would ban avocados and kiwi fruit from the kitchen, judging them as mere

clichés. A pity: they bring freshness to a winter diet.

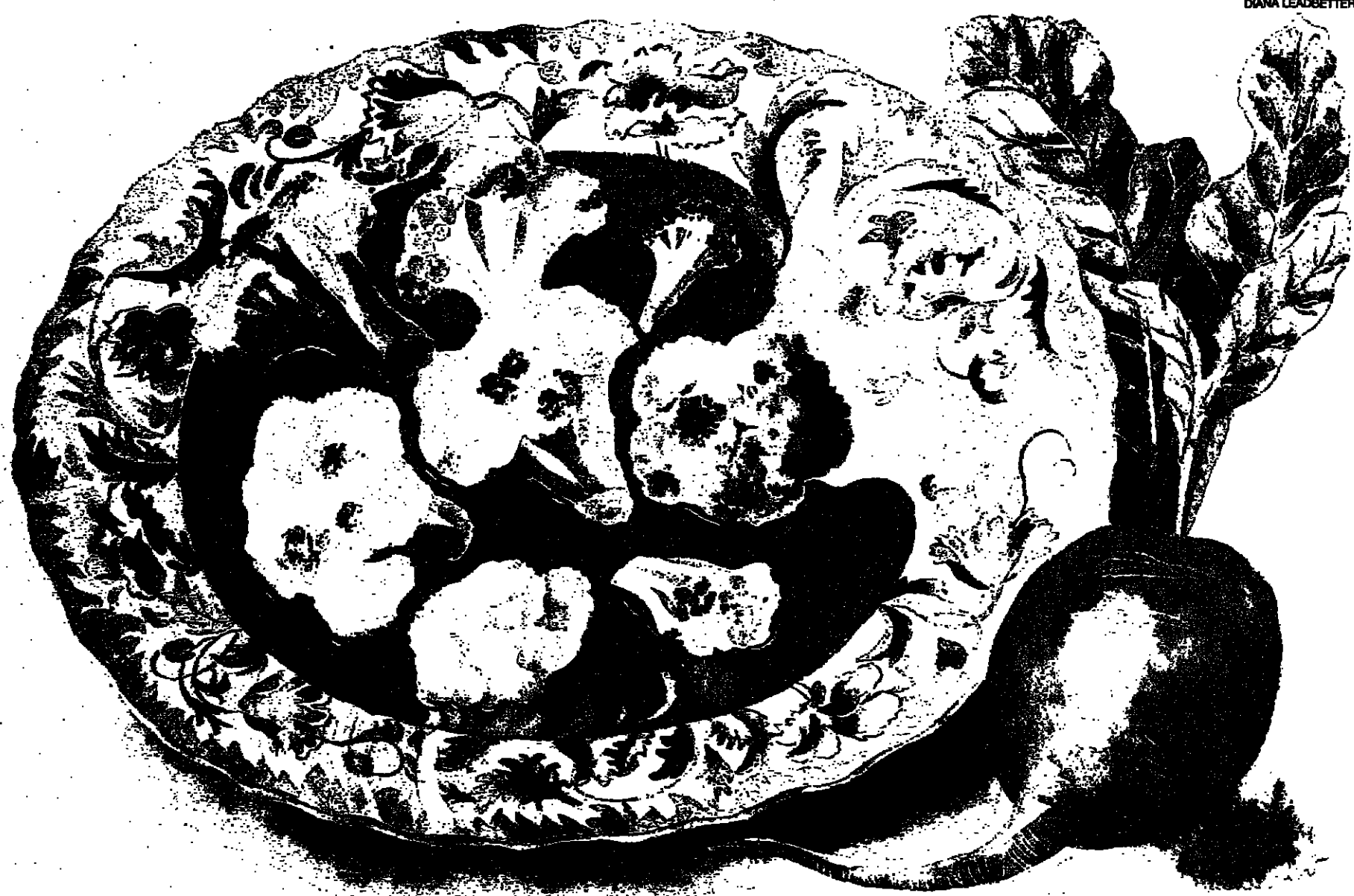
Avocado and kiwi fruit salad with watercress dressing
(serves 4)
1 bunch watercress
1/2 tsp coarse sea salt
freshly ground pepper
1 tbsp lemon juice or white wine vinegar
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp honey (optional)
1-2 ripe avocados
4 firm kiwi fruit

Arrange the more handsome watercress sprigs on a platter or individual plates, discarding wilted or yellowing leaves. Unless you are using a juicer, when you can use the whole sprig, keep the stalks for a stock or soup, and put the watercress leaves in a mortar or blender. If using a blender, add the rest of the vinaigrette ingredients and blend until smooth. If using a mortar, add the sea salt and pound it with the watercress leaves to a paste before gradually working in the rest of the ingredients. The mixture can be sieved if you wish.

A juicer should be used according to the manufacturer's instructions, and the rest of the vinaigrette ingredients added to the juice. Made with the stalks as well, the juice is extremely strong and peppery, which is why I have suggested the addition of honey.

Peel and slice the avocados and kiwi fruit, arrange as you wish, and spoon the dressing around and over the fruit before serving.

Sweet and sour carrot salad
(serves 4-6)
1 lb/455g carrots
1 small mild onion, or shallot
1 or 2 cloves garlic
2 tbsp groundnut oil
1 tbsp olive or hazelnut oil
2 tsp peanut butter
1 lime
1-2 tsp demerara or light muscovado sugar
salt to taste
flaked dried chillies to taste
2 lime leaves (optional)
2 tsp roasted peanuts, roughly chopped



Peel and coarsely grate or shred the carrots into a bowl. Peel and finely chop the onion or shallot and mix with the carrots and, if used, the peeled and crushed garlic. Mix in the oils blended with the peanut butter. Grate in the lime zest and squeeze in the juice. Season to taste with sugar, salt and chillies. Mix in the shredded lime leaves, if using them, and the chopped peanuts.

Cauliflower with beetroot sauce
(serves 4-6)
Sauce
1 raw beetroot
2-3 tsp sherry or vinegar
1/2 pt/70ml walnut oil
salt, pepper
pinch of fivespice powder
2-3 tsp groundnut oil
1 cauliflower
1 slice fresh ginger
1 clove garlic
1 piece fresh chilli (optional)
seasoning

If you have a juicer, make the beetroot juice according to the manufacturer's directions. If not,

make it as described above. Reduce it or not, as you prefer. Whisk the beetroot juice with the sherry vinegar and walnut oil, season to taste, including the fivespice powder, and put it in one side while you cook the cauliflower.

Break the vegetable into florets. The ribs can be used for a soup. Heat the oil in a wok, with the ginger, garlic clove (halved) and the chilli. When the oil is hot, add the cauliflower and fry it over a high heat for a few minutes, stirring continuously. It does not matter if it browns a little at the edges as this gives the finished dish a good flavour, but do not let it burn. After 4-5 minutes, drain off the oil and add a little water, just enough to create some steam and stop the cauliflower sticking, about 1/2 pt/70ml is more than enough. Lower the heat, and cover with a lid. Steam for a further 5-8 minutes, or more if you prefer a more tender vegetable.

Remove the ginger, garlic and chilli and season the cauliflower lightly. Spoon the vinaigrette on to plates, and serve the cauliflower on

top. This is good hot, warm or cold. A garnish of finely shredded preserved or crystallised ginger can be sprinkled on the cauliflower if liked.

Note: Fivespice powder, a blend of anise pepper, cassia, cloves, fennel seed and star anise, is available in oriental stores and supermarkets.

Steamed oriental vegetables with celery dressing
(serves 6-8)
1/2 lb/110g bean sprouts
half a head of celery
1 head of Chinese leaves (Chinese cabbage)
1/2 lb/110g oyster mushrooms
1/2 lb/110g fresh shiitake mushrooms
2 carrots
Dressing
1/2 oz/70ml celery juice (see introduction)
1-2 tsp rice or sherry vinegar
3-4 tsp groundnut oil
1-2 tsp toasted sesame oil
1-2 tsp soy sauce
freshly ground pepper
1 tsp finely chopped spring onions, or garlic chives

Rinse beansprouts. Trim the celery, removing the strings, and slice obliquely. Shred the Chinese leaves across. Tear the oyster mushrooms into wedges and slice the shiitake mushrooms. Peel the carrots and shave into thin strips with a swivel-headed potato peeler. Pile the vegetables into a steamer basket and steam until crisp, or tender, as you prefer. Tip vegetables into a bowl. Stir the dressing ingredients together and pour over the vegetables. Fold with two forks so that they are well bathed in the dressing. Serve as a warm or cold starter, or as a hot accompaniment.

The final recipe can be served as a starter or as a main course.

Braised fennel stuffed with cheese
(serves 6)
6 fennel bulbs (4-5oz/110-140g each)
3 shallots
2oz/60g goat's cheese, or blue cheese
2oz/60g hard cheese
2oz/60g ricotta cheese

Trim and clean the fennel and set aside any feathery tops. Cut the bulbs in half vertically. Remove

enough of the centre to form a hollow big enough to hold a portion of stuffing. Chop the fennel removed from the centre into tiny dice. Peel and finely chop the shallots. Mix the fennel and shallots with the three cheeses, crumbling the blue cheese and grating the hard cheese.

Drop the fennel halves into a large pan of boiling water and cook for 5-10 minutes. Remove and drain them. Divide the stuffing among the six fennel bulbs, fill the hollow and sandwich the two halves together.

Tie them with thread and place them in a lightly oiled baking dish. Sprinkle with a few drops of water, or wine, stock, cider or lemon juice, cover with foil and place in a moderately hot oven, 190C/375F, gas mark 5, and cook for 15-20 minutes. Timing will depend on the freshness of the fennel. They may be done in less than 15 minutes, or take more than 20. The fennel can also be laid flat in a single layer, stuffing side up, sprinkled with breadcrumbs and grated Parmesan and baked golden brown.

Foolproof dinner parties

How Julia Llewellyn Smith moved on from tuna surprise and learnt to love cooking dinner for eight

The first 50 times you give a dinner party, you will vow never to do it again. The recipe burns and then you drop it on the floor and have to scoop it all up in front of your guests. You spend hours making a hazelnut whirl only to discover two of them are allergic to nuts. You spend the equivalent of a third-world country's GNP on sun-dried artichokes from the deli, only to find no one likes artichokes. And the next morning you have to wash up.

After your fiftieth dinner party, you will, I guarantee, begin to enjoy them. You will realise that feeding eight friends still works out cheaper than buying them two rounds in the pub, or yourself three cocktails in a nightclub. And having a dinner party is much less hassle than a big party, where you have to bar gate-crashers, appease the neighbours and suffer sleepless nights wondering if it was petty to invite everyone in the office except Mark.

Dinner parties are also the ideal time to lure an object of desire into your home. A university friend of mine used to hold regular "crush parties", when she would invite four fanciable men round for supper. Her three best girlfriends attended with the role of saying nice things about her, and when it was her birthday, doing all the cooking, which we would then attribute to her. She made no conquests out of these parties, largely because her victims would usually become wary of the sexist nature of the occasion when they heard the cooks giving them marks out of ten in the kitchen, and leave

at the earliest possible opportunity. Still, she did get invited back to a lot of their parties and I learnt how to cook a delectable four-course meal on a single gas ring, in a tiny college hall of residence kitchen.

These parties must, however, be given properly, or not given at all. There is nothing worse than turning up hungry at someone's house, to find that the hosts have no intention of making anything before everyone is so faint from drunkenness that they will accept anything. If you do not enjoy cooking do not have a dinner party. Invite all your friends round to play Trivial Pursuit and tell them to eat before they arrive. If you do not have time to shop have your party at the weekend.

Other rules include making nothing called tuna surprise, or anything which consists of canned tuna and tomatoes heated with a dash of oil, dumped on a pile of pasta and rice. This is a perfectly fine dish, but it is the first thing everyone learns to do when they leave home. If you produce tuna surprise your guests will fear that you have not progressed from the *Cooking in a Bedsitter* that your mother gave you when you went to college, and any credibility you have gained will immediately be lost.

Pasta, in fact, is banned completely. It may be easy and cheap to make, but it is precisely for that reason that most people have it every night at home. They do not want to see it when they go out. The exception to this is fancy



Top table: Julia Llewellyn Smith's guests get no fancy desserts — it's fruit or ice-cream

lasagne dishes, because anything baked in the oven will give guests the impression that you have been slaving for hours and make their eyes mist over as they remember their granny's cooking. Meat is out. People keep converting to vegetarianism, and anyway it is expensive.

The general observation to bear in mind when choosing a dinner party menu is make something you can prepare the night before, or at least before the guests arrive. There is nothing more guaranteed to make you feel like your mother than to find yourself slaving

over a hot stove, while your friends can all be heard laughing away and breaking your stereo next door. Never choose a menu unless you know you can buy all the ingredients in your local supermarket. It is not worth traipsing all over town for ground reindeer's trotters.

Bearing this in mind, here is my infallible dinner party recipe for eight. The first course takes ten minutes to make, the main course takes longer, but can be prepared the night before, kept in the fridge and baked while people are scoffing the first course.

First course: tomato bread
two packs cherry tomatoes
basil, olive oil
about 3 loaves of ciabatta bread (can be bought in any supermarket)
jar of olive paste (dip)

Chop the tomatoes and basil very small and put in an ovenproof dish, drizzled with olive oil. Cook it in a hot oven. Meanwhile toast the ciabatta and spread with olive paste. After ten minutes take out the tomato mixture and pour hot over the toast. Serve immediately, eat with fingers.

Second course: spinach lasagne
1.5k spinach, frozen, unless you are desperately keen to defeat the fresh snail, wash it 30 times and see it disintegrate into a portion fit for nobody but Jane Fonda
2oz butter
2 crushed cloves of garlic
1lb ricotta or cottage cheese, the former is nicer, but slightly harder to get
3 egg yolks
grated rind of 2 lemons (this is not vital)
salt, pepper, grated nutmeg (if at all possible)
14oz Cheddar cheese, grated
one box lasagne, pre-cooked

For the white sauce, my advice is to buy some of the ready-prepared stuff you can buy in good supermarkets. If you really want to age ten years as it stubbornly thickens into an unappetising lump, do make it yourself with:

1.5p milk
2oz of butter
2oz flour
1 tsp mustard powder (if at hand)

Cook the spinach from fresh or frozen. Melt the butter on a very low heat in a saucepan. Add the garlic and then the spinach and fry gently for a few minutes. Put on one side.

Mix the cottage cheese or ricotta, egg yolks, lemon rind, nutmeg, two thirds of the cheddar, salt and pepper and add to the cooled spinach. Mix together well.

If you are of a masochistic bent, now make the white sauce. Heat the milk until it just begins to boil, then put on one side. Melt butter gently in a heavy pan. Mix in the flour, stirring all the while with a wooden spoon. Add the milk a little at a time, stirring constantly until the lumps disappear and the sauce thickens. Stir in the mustard powder when milk runs out. Book into a rest home to recover.

When all is ready take a fairly shallow ovenproof dish, and spread a layer of spinach sparsely on the bottom. Put some white sauce over this and add some of the left-over cheddar, salt and pepper, and cover with a few sheets of lasagne. Repeat this until you run out of ingredients, ending with some white sauce and a sprinkling of Cheddar on top. Seeing the layers build up is very therapeutic after a hard day's work.

Cover the dish with foil and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6, for about 50 minutes. Take the foil off for the last 15 minutes and the top will brown attractively.

Don't bother serving a salad, you will only forget about it and find it in the fridge the next morning. Don't ever bother making a pudding. Be generous instead

and buy some Häagen-Dazs ice cream.

Rest assured, your guests will be just as happy eating this as knowing you spent an hour lovingly creating something else for them. It will probably cost more than the rest of the dinner put together, but some will be left over and you will be able to eat it, virtually guilt free, for every meal for the next four days.

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Michael Bradley remembers the horrors of his first day at prep school, where eight-year-olds are taught to run an empire



Brave face: Bradley, aged nine

"wilful failure to consume leeks"; of how our lives were being lived out in this warren of carbolic corridors peopled by eccentric, misshapen masters unfit for life in the real world beyond the school gates? Had they known what really went on, would they still have been happy to part with vast sums to pay these torturers' wages?

Sentenced to his first term in such a penal institution, it is customary for the unsuspecting innocent to find himself deposited, with

In my case, the headmaster emerged to extend the usual felicitations to papa who, having said his own farewell, was then faced with the awkward job of unfastening mama from her charge and bundling the distraught mass of mink and mascara into the old Rover for the drive home.

The task of leading the victim on the lonely walk up to the junior dormitory fell to the headmaster's wife, or Cruella, as I later came to know her. There I was met by an old iron bed and a locker, both bearing my name in stark black italic letters, surrounded by others silently declaiming "Dreadnought of that ilk, St J", "Snake, A", "Snake, R", "Maltravers, P.B.J.", and "Quagadonouse, O".

Done with the formalities of my welcome to Spongebury, I was assigned to a slightly older boy, who I was told would help me "settle down". His first selfless act was to relieve me of a boiled sweet I had been saving in case of emergencies, saying impressively and in true Molesworthian tones: "Hand

it over, weed, or I will bash you.
This was only the first in a
confusing and seemingly intermi-
nable series of initiation rites (the
casting of live snakes, the
drinking of medicinal concoctions,
the wearing of robes made from
school bull's *entz*) by which you came
to understand the meaning and
significance of your lowliness as a
new boy in a world ruled by seniors
with sheath knives at their belts;
miniature men of 13 fluent in the
arcane arts of trig and algys, masters
of the fourth declension whom you
could only view from afar on
summer afternoons as you daisy-
chained your days away at the
lonely outpost of mid-wicket, while
they dispensed their wisdom, god-like.
The Bannan, Fung, Ming, and
the way to victory and fairy-cakes
in the gym.

It seemed understandable that games should figure disproportionately high on the prep school

Back to prison: tuckboxes, trunks and embarrassingly tearful mothers mark the first day of term

curriculum. After all, what other news would there have been to report in those smudged missives, composed with much head-scratching and pen-chewing after church on Sunday mornings, if the first team had not trounced their most feared enemy, neighbouring St Botolph's? True, every school needs its try-scoring heroes, its golden centre-forwards and its deadly gooley-merchants, but too easily we

forget those centuries — of years, not runs — unwillingly spent on the pitch, in the nets and in the cold sand of the high-jump pit by those not destined to take varsity blues.

No, unless you can wangle yourself a good permanent injury early on in your sporting career you may find yourself forced to spend an unthinkable amount of time in conversation with bored goalkeepers, while the élite of the Fourth XI

flail feebly at the opposing goal. Here, in the icy winter depths of second halves that refuse to end, is no team spirit, no engendering of war-winning ways; but games, like so many things at school, are compulsory.

You don't have to be of the "hallo clouds, hallo sky" persuasion to hate sport, and it must be said that a great deal of the true growing-up that goes on at school involves

learning to be good at being bad, a talent not in great demand at the crease. A lethal pea-shooter must hone his art in the classroom jungle. Nor are boys born with pillow-fighting skills; they must be won in the course of midnight-raiding parties involving great risk to life and limb (and bottom). Indeed, learning the cunning required of a master crib could be said to be of equal value to the learning cribbed.

More than anything, prep school prepares you for dealing with other people. Living at close quarters with lots of highly-strung, often highly-pedigreed boys with peculiar names for 24 hours a day can do funny things to you if you are anything short of resilient. So you begin to develop those magic powers, wit and charm. These obviously also come in handy for dealing with masters, matrons, padres and, most important of all, the headmaster.

the headmaster. Happily, the staff of these schools are usually made up of people who have sought refuge from the tough, unforgiving world outside, thus they present extreme and often alarmingly articulate examples against which to test your mettle: corpulent classicists fluent in four dead languages whose only love is camellias and their cultivation; moustachioed former Desert Rats, who still bear swager-sticks and war wounds and a strong dislike for Johnny foreigner; nymphomaniac assistant matrons, who eye the boys from hot countries in the wash-house at bath-time; Chelsea-booted assistant teachers, who spend their year between school and university riding large, penile motor-cycles and pleasuring the aforementioned assistant matrons, to the envy of all the older masters.

Most parents are surprised at how quickly little Tarquin settles into his new surroundings, and saddened perhaps as the little child falls away to reveal the boy who burns with a new intensity in what Cecil Day Lewis called "a world, insulated, self-important, artificial, anxiety-ridden, yet endeared by familiarity, not less than by the deposit of golden moments".

Yes, of course it was an agonising wrench at first, but for those of us in whom the happy memories outweigh the occasional bout of homesickness, it is all the excitement and magic of a privileged boyhood that we remember down the years. Besides, compared with public school it's a breeze.

● Names of schools and boys have been changed, if only to protect the author from the wrath of Old Spongeburlans. Illustrations by Ronald Searle, from *How To Be Topp* by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle (Pavilion, £3.99).

FAX 071-782 7828[illegible]

Tim Marsh puts on his dancing shoes to join the lindy hoppers and boppers reliving the wild dances of the jazz and rock'n'roll age

Heaven for hoofers

Sue and David's eyes connect across a smoky dance floor already quivering with young couples jitterbugging like there is no tonight, never mind tomorrow.

Sue's blonde hair flows around her shoulders, pure Betty Grable spilling over a floral frock. David slouches moodily against a cigarette machine, topped in a second world war US airman's uniform, officer rank naturally.

"You want to dance?" he draws. Sue accepts instantly. Within seconds, they are throwing each other enthusiastically around the dance floor with improbable dexterity, hands interlocked, popping each other's shoulder sockets like deranged chiropractors.

It looked different just an hour before. With dozens of other lindy hoppers, Sue and David stumped ungraciously through rudimentary versions of 1930s and 1940s steps, such as the Suez Q, the pretzel and the frog, in preparation for the stompin' night at the legendary 100 Club, in London's Oxford Street, a weekly homage to what was once called the dangerous dance music of America. "I am a secretary from Wigan really. I have only been coming here for a few weeks so I am still not good at remembering all the steps," Sue reveals in an accent more Rita Duckworth than Rita Hayworth, while squadron leader David lets slip that he is actually an accountant from Tunbridge Wells and the nearest he has been to an

For three minutes, it is as though you are married

Honkin' Hep Cats, he expands his theory on why living is enjoying a gradual re-emergence.

"I think for a lot of people the appeal is that within three seconds of meeting a young lady, you are holding her in your arms. For the next three minutes it is as though you are married, the union is that close. But by the end it is a quiet divorce: you say thanks and go your separate ways."

He started the club simply so he could go somewhere which played the music he loved. Now he discovers that he is too busy running things to dance.

You may even recognise him. Together with partner Louise Thwaite, he has danced the jitterbug in the back-

ground in the dance sequences of several recent period films, such as *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl* and *David Puttnam's Memphis Belle*.

"We also get invited to all sorts of balls and charity do's to add flavour to the dancing. And just recently we were asked to dance at a party for the opening of Richard Attenborough's *Chaplin*," he says. Like many young lindy hoppers, Mr Selmon first became besotted with 1930s and 1940s dance through film.

"Movies such as *A Day at the Races* and *Helzapoppin'*, both featuring Whitey's Lindy Hoppers, who spread the dance styles from Harlem around the world," he says. "Right away I knew I wanted to dance like that. It looked so smart. But I had great difficulty finding anyone who taught it, so I used to watch the films over and over."

With stompin', his aim is simple: "To keep the dance floor really buzzing all night. I DJ for a while, then let the live band loose. The trouble with records is that you get to know them too well. To really dance, you need the spontaneity of a live band."

On cue, he has to break off the conversation as the Hep Cats' saxophonist leaps off stage and proceeds to gambol through the crowd handing out sausage rolls while continuing to play the sax.

The lindy hop is such a wild dance," Mr Selmon says, after normal service has been resumed. "There is no set routine, you learn a few basic steps then improvise like mad. What makes the evening dif-



At the hop: on Monday nights at the 100 Club in London, fans pay homage to the dangerous dance music of America

ferent is that we teach you those basic steps an hour before the show starts. So you have no excuse not to hit the dance floor."

During the classes, partners are rotated, giving everyone the chance to meet new hoppers, which contributes to the very laid-back atmosphere later on. The fact that the songs tend to be short also adds to the mood, says Jane Peterson, 29, a club regular and sales rep from South London. "You feel you can accept any offers of a dance, comfortable in the knowledge that if you don't like them, three minutes later you can say no thanks."

Like many, Ms Peterson chooses comfort over style, dressing casually in black leggings and a simple blouse. For Andrew Hall, on the other hand, the element of dressing up and role play is essential to a good night's stompin'. Mr Hall is 26 and insists he works as a custodian for English Heritage, but with his dark blue trilby, double-breasted

zoot suit, kipper tie wide enough to swaddle Pavarotti and two-tone blue and white co-respondent shoes, he looks as if he might try to flog you a dodgy motor.

"It feels good to be dressed like this," he says. "It is a break from everyday life and helps you get into the dance scene. Right now, I am going for a bit of a spiv look. I have also got a 1932 Zippo lighter and 1930s designer watch. All I'm after now is a pair of authentic period specs."

Paul Smith, who works as a photographer, is just relieved to find a regular haunt where he can sort his shimmies from his pecking. "Until I came across stompin', we used to have to sneak into things like ballroom dances and have a quick jive. The ballroom dancers didn't really like that because they had to go round in circles while we can go all over the place. It is such a liberating style of dance. It takes a few weeks to get really good, but once you are over

that, you are hooked: there are always new steps to learn and perfect."

Men who are after a sharp retro look usually head for Kensington Market, while the meccas for women are Greenwich Market, Portobello Road and all the second-hand shops lined up around Camden. "As lindy hopping becomes more and more popular, so the dress prices seem to go up and up," says Miss Thwaite, between dances. "But it is still not that expensive, anything from £20 to £25 for a reasonable quality 1940s-style floral dress."

Don't mention the words "retro" or "revival" around Mr Selmon. This is not a revival, he says. "Most people who come here are in their twenties and thirties, and bring a young attitude to it. We will mix and match from the past to produce something new. We are always improvising and trying up-to-date styles, such as the American west-coast style. You see, they have never stopped dancing over there, so the music and steps have evolved tremendously. Right now, it is a much slower, sleazier dance over there. They think we are like crazy ravers because we take our moves from the old films and dance very fast. It is the music and dancing which are essential in stompin', not how you decide to dress."

Meanwhile Sue and David are looking apprehensively at each other. Taking the centre of the dance floor, a particularly slick-looking young couple have decided it is time to jam, showing off their flashiest moves, including several much envied aerials in which the man acrobatically flings his partner high into the air. Sue turns palely to David, a resemblance to Betty Grable draining from her face. "I do hope you are not thinking of doing that," she gasps, while David, who on closer inspection does not look the flinging type, tries hard not to appear too relieved.

The vicar of Bray today

Ruth Gledhill visits a clergyman with a tradition of duplicity to live down



IN HIS vicarage overlooking the Thames, the present vicar of Bray, the Rev George Repath, has the famous ballad about his notorious predecessor pinned over his study desk:

In Good King Charles' golden days,
When loyalty no harm meant,
A zealous High Churchman was I
And so I got preferment.
To teach my flock I never missed,
Kings were by God appointed,
And damnd'd are those that do resist
Or touch the Lord's anointed.
For this law I will maintain
Until my dying day, sir,
Whatever King in England reigns
I'll be the vicar of Bray, sir.

St Michael's, the incarnation of a traditional English country parish church, has as its present incumbent a man who embodies the traditional view of an English country vicar today. If uncertain times returned, he would never need to change the colour of his cloth, because like the church he belongs to, he is already both Catholic and reformed in almost every respect. He is also the only vicar to have asked me back to Sunday lunch, an invitation I sadly had to refuse.

With the eight bells ringing out still, I was greeted at the southern porch of the early 14th-century flint and hard chalk church by the vicar's wife Mary, vergar, churchwarden and sidesmen. Graham Goy, deputy churchwarden, was clothed in a white cassock, alb and amice, a form of embroidered collar. The reason for this impressively clerical dress became clear when, in his alternative role as server, he offered me the chalice during communion.

We used the Alternative Service Book, but Rite B, the more traditional rite, as opposed to the widely-diluted Rite A. For stalwart traditionalists, *The Book of Common Prayer* can be enjoyed at 8am communion and evensong.

As the service began, the vicar processed from the vestry wearing the full eucharistic vestments, a chasuble over a cassock alb, signifying his Anglo-Catholic roots. I was slightly surprised when a woman, the Rev Julie Ramsbottom, whose daughter Sarah sang in the choir, then led us in the "ministry of the word", the confession and other parts of the service, and even more surprised to read in



Celebrated in song: the 14th-century St Michael's parish church at Bray in Berkshire

St Michael's, Bray, Berkshire SL6 2AB (0628 21527).
VICAR: The Rev George Repath.
SERMON: Read skilfully from notes, with inspired moments.***
ARCHITECTURE: Built in Early English and perpendicular styles with tower added later, and extensive 19th-century reconstructions in Bath stone.***
MUSIC: Typical parish church, with organ and Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised.***
LITURGY: Mr Repath does his best with the material available in the Alternative Service Book, currently being revised.***
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Excellent, with tea and coffee made according to individual need, and opportunity for debate about women priests with lively woman deacon.***
* stars are awarded up to a maximum of five.

the December parish newsletter that Mr Repath greeted with "great joy" the recent General Synod decision to ordain women priests.

As the service progressed, the Catholic and reformed elements of Mr Repath's ministry continued to complement each other, a useful example perhaps of how some Anglo-Catholics could gracefully accept the ministry of women priests when they are ordained for the first time next year in the Church of England.

More than 150 people were in church on this second Sunday after Christmas, a day when most would not expect high attendances. Out of a church electoral roll of 197, about 180 normally show for parish communion. The service was intimate and friendly, but we did not shake hands or exchange any physical sign at the "peace".

A black and gold notice board near the entrance lists vicars of Bray from Reinhold in 1081, mentioned in the Domesday Book, to the present day. Debate is still continuing over which vicar of Bray was the turncoat of the ballad, thought to have been written by a foot soldier. Symon Symonds (1543-1547) and Simon Ayleyn (1565) are

the chief contenders, but Mr Repath has established himself as an authority on the subject, and his researches show the original culprit might not have been vicar in Bray at all, but a turncoat Welsh bishop, or a 16th-century vicar in Norfolk, Andrew Ferne.

In spite of the strong lead set by the choir, the singing took a while to warm up. But by the time we reached "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" the congregation, of the cheerful and resilient type of men and women who make up the backbone of middle England and home-counties counterland, was in full voice.

Bray has an audio loop system for the hard of hearing, and microphones and speakers for "sound reinforcement", although I still had to listen hard at the back to hear what was going on. A service sheet helpfully listed the page numbers as the service progressed.

Mr Repath preached at the chancel steps and not from the pulpit, in order to be closer to those he is speaking to, he explained afterwards.

He based his sermon on the day's Gospel, which describes how Jesus stayed behind in the

temple in Jerusalem when his parents started for home in Nazareth after Passover festivities. Mr Repath referred to modern biblical criticism, which queries the literal truth of the text.

"We have to be aware of the danger of being more concerned with externals than with the truth that is conveyed. What matters most is not whether Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem, nor whether he went with Joseph and Mary when he was 12. What matters most is what was taking place in Jesus' mind and in his spiritual development. He made use of every opportunity open to him to learn. He discerned between good and evil. He started like the rest of us from nowhere. Where did all this happen? Within the family, both the immediate family and the extended family."

Mr Repath added: "Our Christian work and duty is to let the childhood pattern be our adult pattern, too. Here where we live, in our homes, in our schools, in our places of worship, in this corner of the world, which is God's world really, that we may be more and more transformed to his likeness and his glory."

As Mrs Repath supplied me with four cups of hot tea in quick succession after the service, the glow of familial pastoral care warmed the ends of my freezing fingertips, while the wintry sun batted hopelessly against the frost on the ground outside, and the Church of England did not seem so unlike God after all.

St Michael's is the parish church of Bray, Braywick, Braywood, Ffifield, Holyport, Moneyrow Green, Oakley Green, Sand Green and Touchen-end. Sunday services: Holy Communion 9am; Parish Communion 10am with Sunday school in term time and crèche in parish hall; evensong 6.30pm. Clergy available in homes on Wednesday, 6.30-7.30pm.

Hot spots for cutting a rug

- **Stompin':** 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London WC1 (071-636 0933). Mondays, 7.30pm, £4-£5.
- **Jitterbug classes:** Urdang Academy, 20 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (081-954 2147). Tuesdays, 7-10pm, £4. All levels taught. Wear jazz shoes or plimsolls.
- **Jitterbug:** Notre Dame Hall, 5-6 Leicester Place, London W1 (071-387 0111). Wednesdays, 8-12pm, £4. Classes and social evening.
- **Rock'n'Roll for beginners:** Cheadle Hulme High School, Wood Lane, Cheadle.
- **Hulme, Greater Manchester SK18 7JY** (061-442 0164). £22.50 for ten-week course.
- **Manchester University Rock'n'Roll Appreciation Society:** The Limes Conference Room, Owens Park, 293 Winston Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6HD (061-442 0164). Tuesdays, 9pm, £1.50. Instruction for beginners, basic early rock'n'roll styles.
- **Rock'n'roll and swing classes:** Brownhills Memorial Hall, Lichfield Road, Brownhills, Walsall WS9 6HR (0543 453017). Fridays, 7pm, £2, all levels.
- **Lindy hopper rock'n'roll:** The Galleon
- **Dance Centre:** 12-39 Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9AA (021-777 3514). Mondays, 9.15-11pm, £2.50.
- **Social evening mixed with hopping hits:** LeRock, The Church Hall, 1a White Ladies Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 0JZ (0272 732358). Thursdays, 8pm, £2.50 an hour. LeRock is the French version of swing and rock'n'roll dancing, lessons for all levels.
- **For more information on events and classes, contact the London Swing Dance Society, 28 Nottingham Place, London W1M 3PD (081-954 2147).**

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How the RHS gardens grow

Francesca
Greenoak visits
an expanding
empire

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the most important gardening organisation in the world, is expanding its interests on all fronts, as evidenced by its association with News International (publishers of *The Times*) in the Wembley Spring Gardening Fair, and by its takeover of the Hampton Court International Flower Show.

The society is also increasing its stock of gardens. Its garden at Wisley, Surrey, was acquired in 1903 and developed to 80 hectares of plant trials and model gardens. Although there have been alterations reflecting the changes in opinion and practice over this century, to me it still has an old-fashioned municipal feel to it.

I waited until last summer to visit Rosemoor, near Great Torrington, Devon, which was given to the RHS by Lady Anne Palmer in 1988, because I wanted to give the new developments a chance to settle. The first impression is good: a well-designed, low-lying visitor centre and shop, and pleasant car-park with trees and shrubs. Inside the garden, though, my spirits fell.

The plants in the rose garden and in the ambitious borders, the argyranthemums and other annuals on the terrace, were wonderful, a tribute to the considerable talent of the young head gardener, Chris Bailey. Yet everywhere the beauty of the plants had to fight for ascendancy with designs and construction materials which were, to my eye, out-of-proportion and ugly.

The disappointment was more pronounced because the larger part of Rosemoor is a new garden, made on a greenfield site, presenting a wonderful opportunity, in one of the loveliest parts of England, to make a really beautiful garden.

This month Hyde Hall, at Rettenden, near Chelmsford, Essex, becomes the third in the society's clutch of gardens. This garden is already made and cultivated to a high standard. It was developed by Helen and Dick Robinson, who came to Hyde Hall farm in 1955. The tidying of the farm environs soon developed into a large garden-making project, with practically every aspect of gardening from the 1950s represented.



Nature's helping hand: self-seeded foxgloves (*Eremurus robustus*) in the shrub rose border at Hyde Hall, in Rettenden, Essex

January is not a recommended month for visiting gardens, but I like them in winter and was not disappointed. Winter gives you an overview and you can see how each part of the garden opens out into its neighbours: the pond garden giving on to the semi-formal beds of the rose garden at the crest of the hill, which are flanked by the stunning rose border of shrub roses

interspersed with self-seeded foxgloves (*Eremurus robustus*). There is the heather garden dovetailing into a mainly coniferous area, with interesting underplantings of ivies and other evergreens, and the lower pool garden where the silver catkins of the willow (*Salix daphnoides*) are just beginning to gleam against its purple-black bark.

I like the way that the landscape and architecture of the old farm have been redeployed: an ancient stable floor of Tudor brick has become a ravishing pavement habitat for pasqueflowers, columbines, anemones and violets. An old dell is a garden of ferns, hellebores, cyclamen and evergreen shrubs. Behind the southernmost hedge is a long border of irises, hidden

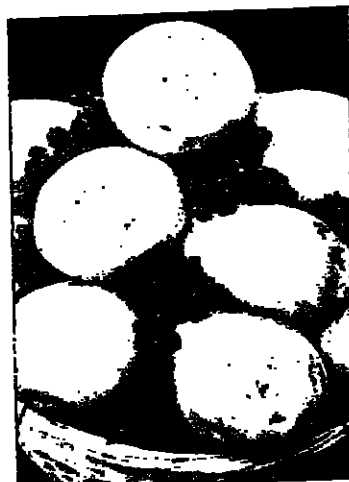
from view except when you want to admire its full midsummer glory. The whole garden is contained within a cordon of shelter-belt trees and shrubs, for this is not an easy region in which to garden. It is cold and windswept, the ground a heavy Essex clay. Where the hillside falls to the west (the old pig park), there are island beds, specimen trees, magnolias, camellias and the national collection of crab apples, which must look and smell absolutely glorious in the spring.

This is a garden which is absolutely 20th-century in conception, made and maintained with exceptional care and skill. The RHS plans to develop it further, not within the existing boundaries but on the land which surrounds the existing garden, adding wild-flower meadows and hedgerows, an area of coppice woodland and copes to mask the car-park.

Entry to all the gardens is free to RHS members. Wisley is open daily, 10am-sunset; non-members £4, child £1.75. Rosemoor is open daily, 10am-4pm; £2.50, child 50p. Hyde Hall Garden is open Mar 28-Oct 24, Wed-Thurs, weekends and bank holidays, 11am-6pm; £2, children 50p.

BEST BUYS

IF YOU have not yet obtained your seed potatoes, go to the nearest garden centre which offers a good choice of varieties. Be sure to distinguish between the different maturing times: first earlies, such as Arran Pilot or Epicure, should be planted between mid-March and early April and can be harvested in June or July; main crops, such as Cara, Maris Piper and Romano, should be planted a little while later and not harvested until early autumn. All potatoes should be laid out in seed trays in a cool, light but not sunny place, to sprout, or "chit", over a period of six to eight weeks.



Autumn treat: Cara potatoes

WEEKEND TIPS

- Sow hollyhocks, verbascums, lupins and delphiniums in the greenhouse.
- Move small deciduous trees and shrubs which need to be transplanted to other parts of the garden.
- Sow geraniums in a propagator at 20C/68F; at seedling stage prick out and reduce temperature to 13C/55F.
- Sow radishes and early carrots in a cool greenhouse or cold frame.
- Replace the top few centimetres of compost on shrubs in pots with fresh compost.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

JULIA NEUBERGER

Rabbi



Where would you go?
To west Cork, in Ireland.
How would you get there?
Fly Aer Lingus from London to Cork and then hire an upmarket car.

Where would you stay?
In our house in the village of Schull. Once a big house, much of it was knocked down in the 1950s to save rates. We have had it for six years and think it's beautiful, but everybody else thinks it's hideous. The village is on the sea, and full of wonderful people.

Who would be your perfect companion?
My husband, our two children and a houseful of friends.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
Thermal insoles for my boots to keep out the cold and damp.
What medicines would you take?

"The Mixture" to alleviate hangovers. It is made by the local chemist from bicarbonate of soda and mystery ingredients.

What would you have to eat?
Smoked salmon from the local smokery, Galbani cheese made locally by Tom and Gianna Ferguson, and delicious bread from The Courtyard, our local grocery and deli.

What would you have to drink?
Too much Sancerre.

Which books would you take to read?
Novels by Ann Bridge, Pamela Frankau, G.B. Stern, Jennifer Johnston and William Trevor that I haven't yet read.

What music would you listen to?
Tosca or Siegfried played very loud, or Billie Holiday singing the blues.

What would you watch on television?
We don't have a television, but are very reliant on Radio 4 long wave. We have to balance the radio on the window sill to get programmes.

Would you play any games or sport?
I would go swimming in the sea if the weather was uncharacteristically hot.

What hobby would you take?
Ready-made gourmet meals for my household, so I didn't have to

cook. Delicious Indian food would be a dream.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
Turner's *The Fighting Temeraire*, because the sunlight depicted is so magnificent.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
Anybody trying to persuade me to be on a committee.

Which newspapers or journals would you read?
The Irish Times, *Sunday Tribune*, *Independent Times*, *Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *TES*, *Sunday Times Observer*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Jewish Chronicle*, *Vogue*, *Country Living*.

What three things would you leave behind?
My diary, respectable clothes, and any sense of guilt.

What three things would you most like to do?
1. Stay in bed reading and drinking tea. 2. Spend time with all my friends there. 3. So that I didn't feel guilty about eating huge meals, I'd go for a long walk to Lismoon Castle.

To whom would you send a postcard?
My parents, and friends who couldn't come.

What souvenir would you bring home?
Cheese and smoked salmon.

What would you like to find when you got home?
Our London house filled with flowers, and no huge pile of unopened mail.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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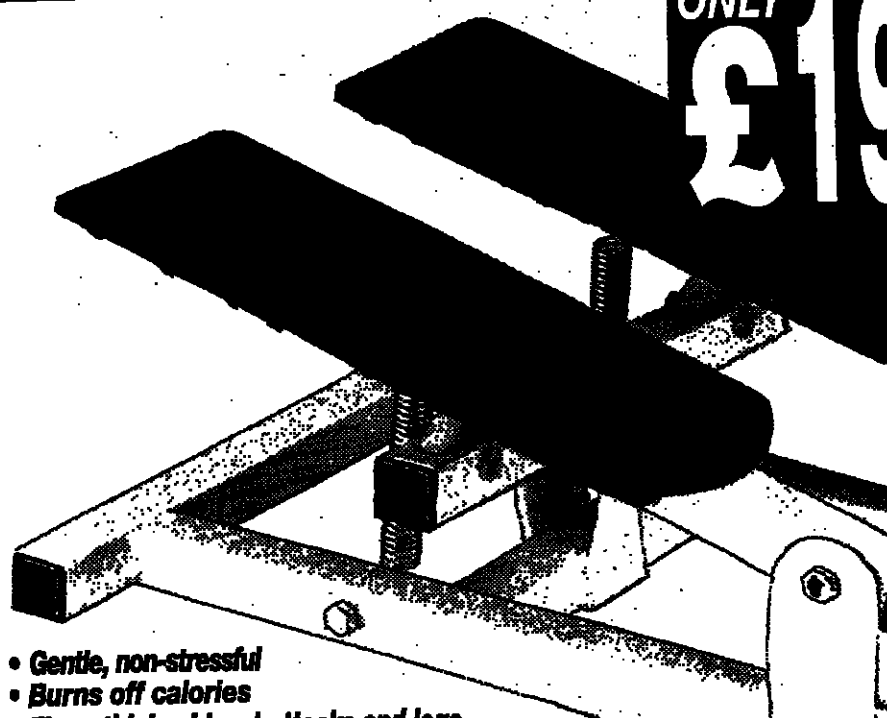
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Journey into the mists of a grand history

The weekend kicked off on an atmospheric note, as we rattled along in the darkness through banks of mist, past ancient monuments, castellated walls and self-important lodges. This area of north Yorkshire boasts a grand past, and our destination, The Worsley Arms Hotel in Hovingham, has its fair share of history. For generations this country hotel has been owned by the Worsley family, local landowners whose grand Palladian seat, Hovingham Hall, sits just outside the village.

Commissioned by Sir William Worsley in 1840, the coaching inn was built, using local limestone and pantries, in a style known as late-late-Georgian. It was part of a plan to develop the village as a spa using local sulphurous springs, but unfortunately the spa was half a mile from the village down a cold, muddy track. The enterprise never took off like the spas at Scarborough and Harrogate, but its memory lived on: the old station was called Hovingham Spa and the petrol pump is still named Spa Garage.

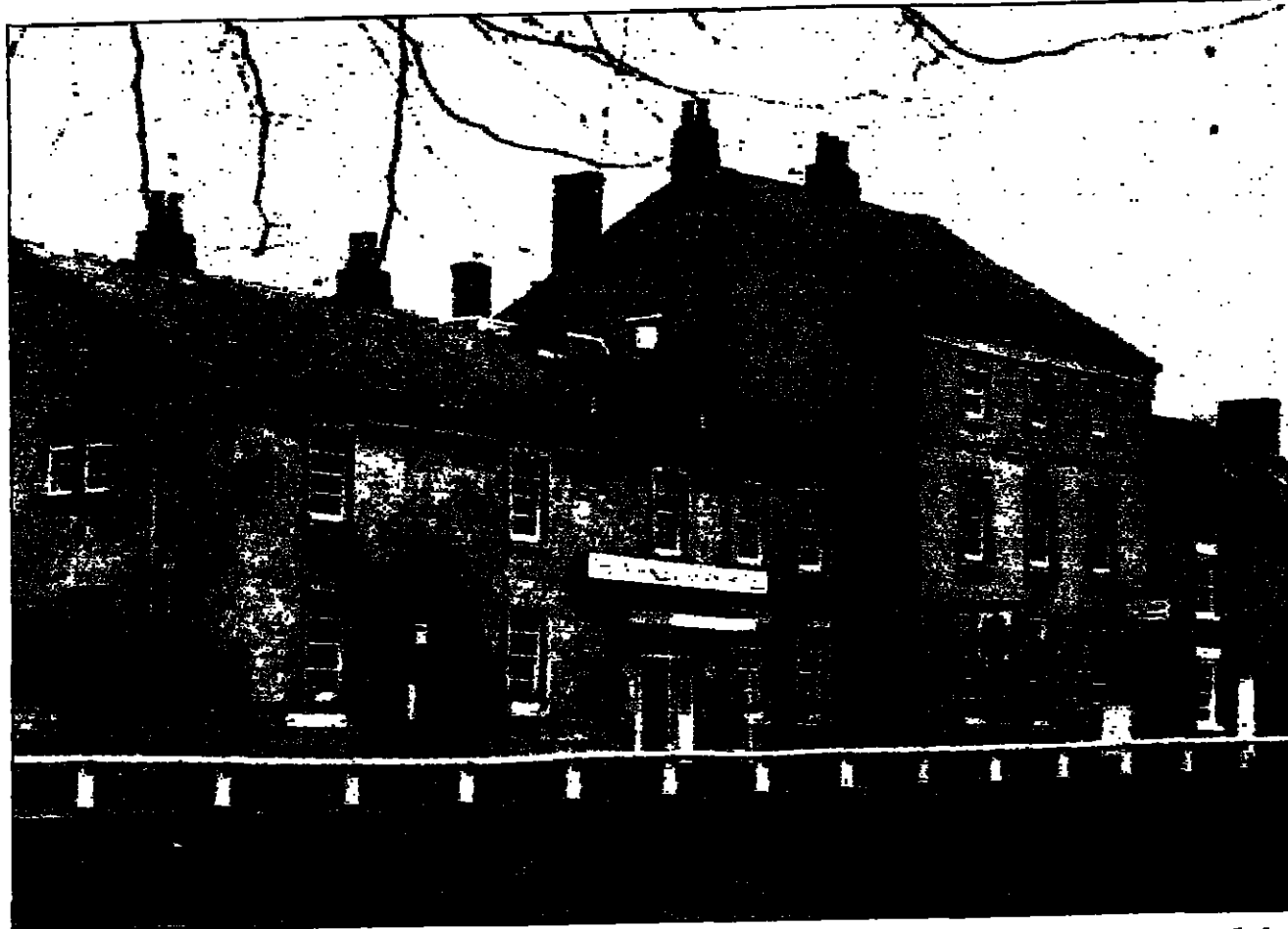
The hotel stayed in business, however, and three years ago William Worsley, eldest son of the present baronet, took up the reins. It is a charming place: easy-going and in quiet good taste, yet it caters to almost every whim and comfort. The homely atmosphere stems from its antiques, open fires and floral sofas, as well as the diminutive proportions of the sitting rooms and spaces. Its lived-in feel even oozes from the portraits of ancestors, who gaze solemnly from the dining room walls on the indulgent and the abstemious alike.

Hovingham makes a useful base for touring the liberal smattering of historic monuments: Duncombe Park, Nunnington Hall, Rievaulx Abbey, Helmsley Castle, to name but a few. Just three miles away lies the most famous of all, Castle Howard, the vast mansion familiar to many people from its role in the television series of *Brideshead Revisited*.

This creation of John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor proclaims itself from far and wide: perimeter walls, follies, columns and an obelisk all herald the majestic pile. Considered one of the treasure

Annie Rankin travels to north Yorkshire to appreciate the great houses and the monuments of medieval faith, and to indulge the stomach as well as the spirit

KIPPA MATTHEWS

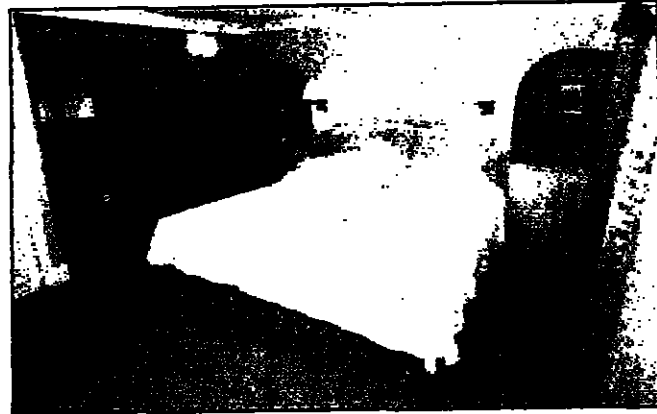


Home comforts: the Worsley Arms Hotel (above), a former coaching inn, has a homely air of quiet good taste (below)

houses of England, its interior is quite extraordinary, particularly the domed great hall, as is the splendid collection of paintings. The landscaped grounds, lake and pleasure gardens draw a steady stream of picnickers (and were all we could explore on this occasion, because the interior is closed in winter).

Our favourite sight, however, was the majestic ruins of Rievaulx Abbey. This was the first important monastery built by the Cistercians in the 12th century, and its secluded setting beside the river Rye is typical of these monks, who chose places far removed from the temptation of towns. For an authentic experience, approach Rievaulx by foot along a two and a half mile path from Helmsley.

The highlights are the ele-



gant early English arcade of the elaborately carved choir and the frater (or refectory) — both adaptations from about 1230. There is a romance and grandeur in the lofty arches, whose bare bones retain some of its peaceful spirit. Enough to

make us feel that, if we had lived in the Middle Ages, monastic life might have been a good option.

All around the Ryedale area lie many unspoiled villages like Hovingham, which, with their stone-built houses, neatly

channelled streams and manicured greens, seem to vie with one another for local "best kept" awards. Some, such as Hutton-le-Hole, are perhaps a bit too twee. We wandered through the pretty market town of Helmsley and along a wonderful six-mile circular walk along the ridges around Farndale.

When we reached open land we found ourselves chilly and exposed, trudging through patches of snow. But the views across the rolling North York moors were ample compensation. We spotted one kestrel and disturbed plenty of grouse from their heathery hideouts. Otherwise it was a solitary landscape, inspiring in its scale and breadth, and certainly bracing to jaded urbanites.

Back at the Worsley Arms the cooking from Billy, the

affable Irish chef, was equally heartening. The menus could be broadly termed modern European with traditional game recipes from the week's local bags: Ampleforth venison and pheasant from the Hovingham estate are the standard house specialities.

Our dishes were well cooked and consistent, and presentation was fairly elaborate. My seafood cassoulet in a fishy fumet sauce on a bed of wild rice was excellent. Apart from the odd fish bone and some under-ripe papaya, Billy provided a delightfully glutinous weekend.

The wine was also up to scratch, with a well-judged and comprehensive selection. The house labels from the southern Rhône are wonderfully fruity and cost just under £10. The 1989 Puligny Montrachet premier cru from Louis Latour that we were invited to try, price a mere £37.50, seemed pretty acceptable, too. All the wines, we were earnestly assured, have been assiduously sampled by the proprietor and his father. The speciality of the snug hotel bar is the local Malton bitter.

In winter, the area becomes a magnet for pheasant shooters, which partly explains why January is the second-most popular month at the hotel. For those who do not shoot, there are many other activities. We were tempted by a game of squash at the hall's private squash court on Sunday morning, but opted for a leisurely intake of kippers and The Archers. Other sports, such as golf and horse riding, are available nearby.

The weekend ended as it began, in full view of York Minster. Unfortunately, we had no time to visit the Viking centre, but we were not going to miss out the minster. It scarcely needs saying, but those who have not explored this famous landmark are missing an architectural, nay spiritual, treat. It was a fitting end to an enriching weekend.

The Worsley Arms Hotel, Hovingham, Yorkshire YO6 4LA (0430) 624234. Double room with bath and breakfast costs £54 per person per night. Four-course dinner costs £16.50 and three-course lunch costs £12.50. No wheelchair facilities.



Our high summer voyage around the Baltic is a celebration of the history, architecture, art and music of Scandinavia, Russia, the Baltic States and the Hanseatic city of Gdansk.

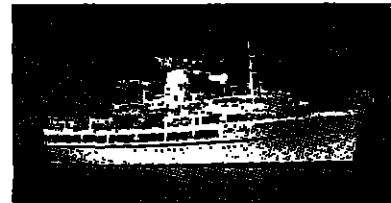
The month of July is the perfect time for a visit to the Baltic. Warm days and long bright evenings will allow us to make the most of our time in this wonderful and often touristy neglected corner of Europe. Its shores are abundant with beautiful and historic cities, dating back to the Vikings and the Hanseatic era.

There can be little doubt that a journey by sea is the most enjoyable and certainly the most practical way to explore the region, not only because the distances are great but because to approach such cities as Stockholm, Copenhagen and St Petersburg by sea is a memorable experience.

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Whilst no stranger to our shores or the Baltic, the Illiria was until recently only available to passengers from the United States. She is an exceptional first class vessel and has looked after the cruising needs of leading American cultural, university and scientific foundations such as the Smithsonian, National Gallery and Harvard for over 10 years.

On board there is accommodation for 140 guests, but she usually sails with just over 100 passengers. The cabins are smartly furnished, and have private shower and wc. The large public rooms



are also well designed and attractive, reminiscent of a private yacht and there is an elegant single open sitting restaurant. Other facilities include a well stocked library, shop, hairdresser, clinic, gymnasium and large deck areas with a good size swimming pool. The mainly European staff with a company of over 80 officers and crew provide an excellent and caring service.

The Illiria, like our own MS Caledonian Star is operated for the benefit and enjoyment of genuine travellers. On board you will not be subjected to endless entertainments and deck games. However you will find a congenial atmosphere and a programme of pre or after dinner talks from our guest speakers who will include the well known lecturer Edward Saunders. In addition 'Musical Interludes' will provide an accomplished quartet for concerts on board during our days at sea.

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DAY 2 At sea

DAY 3 Oslo Morning visit to the fascinating Maritime Museum to see the Kon-Tiki raft and the Norwegian Maritime Museum which houses a collection of Viking ships, amongst the most remarkable and beautiful survivals from Viking Times. Afternoon free.

DAY 4 Copenhagen Half day excursion to the Amalienborg and Christiansburg Palaces. Afternoon free until midnight sailing, leaving time for an evening visit to the Tivoli Gardens.

DAY 5 Kalmar Morning at sea. After lunch arrive at Kalmar, a quiet historic port guarding the passage between the Swedish mainland and Oland Island. Visit the great Castle or take an optional excursion to Orrefors, the Kingdom of Glass, to see its most prestigious glass factory.

DAY 6 Stockholm Morning visit to the National Museum which houses Sweden's most valuable art collection. Optional afternoon visit to the Palace of Drottningholm.

DAY 7 Helsinki Morning at Sea. We have the afternoon to explore this most accessible of cities. Optional excursion to the Presidential Palace, Cathedral and Senate Square.

DAY 8 St Petersburg We shall moor overnight in this most beautiful of all Russian cities, allowing time to explore Peter the Great's marvellous creation and the country estates.



Morning visit to the incomparable Hermitage. Afternoon free or optional city tour. Moor overnight.

DAY 9 St Petersburg Optional excursion available to the Palace of Peterhof and Lomonosov.

DAY 10 Tallin Morning excursion of the Estonian capital one of the best preserved medieval cities of northern Europe. See Toompea Castle and the Museum in the Guildhall.

DAY 11 Riga Morning exploration of the Latvian capital begins at the Castle and nearby Cathedral. In the afternoon walk the winding streets in the old quarter or visit the open air museum.

DAY 12 At sea
DAY 13 Gdansk The restoration of the old quarter of this Hanseatic city is stunning. Explore its magical streets on a morning excursion which will also include Oliva and its medieval Cathedral which houses a mighty 18th century 6000 pipe organ.

DAY 14 At sea
DAY 15 Copenhagen Disembark and return by air to London or Glasgow.

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I must go down to the

Land sailing is the ideal sport for hydrophobes

I have sailed, on and off, since I was a child — dinghies, day boats and 40ft cruising yachts. I love the feel of the wind whistling through my hair and the joy of speeding along utilising the free power of the wind. What I never enjoyed was getting wet. So, when I was given the chance to go land sailing, I knew this was the sport for me. It is most akin to sailing a small dinghy, but you can go very much faster and, most importantly, you stay dry.

The sport is called sand and land yachting because it can be done both on beaches and airfields. It is quicker on the latter because there is less resistance, but the runway is rarely in the right direction to make best use of the wind. On a grey and not very windy day, I drove up to Basingstoke aerodrome, in Cambridgeshire, north of Royston, which is the second oldest club in Britain. I was given a crash helmet and heavy-duty gloves, which are vital for hanging on to the sheets (ropes to non-sailors) when the wind gets up, and climbed into a coracle-style fibreglass hull. All my sailing experience vanished with the breeze.

I was told to lie almost flat, with my head just tipped up so I could see where I was going. My feet were to steer the boat with pedals, like a go-kart. "How do I stop?" I asked. Just turn into the wind, was the answer, or run up on to the grass to slow down.

With a good push off to get going, I was sailing, flying across the tarmac. As the edge of the runway raced towards me, I could hear my instructor, Mike Hampton, shouting at me to turn left. I hauled in the sheets, did as I was told and the boat turned, the boom moved over and I was off again. The exhilaration was terrific and I was sure I was going at 100mph. Mr Hampton told me later that it was only about 15mph, but it seemed pretty good to me at the time.

After a couple of runs, I got the hang of it and was yearning for the wind to increase so I could go even faster. There are

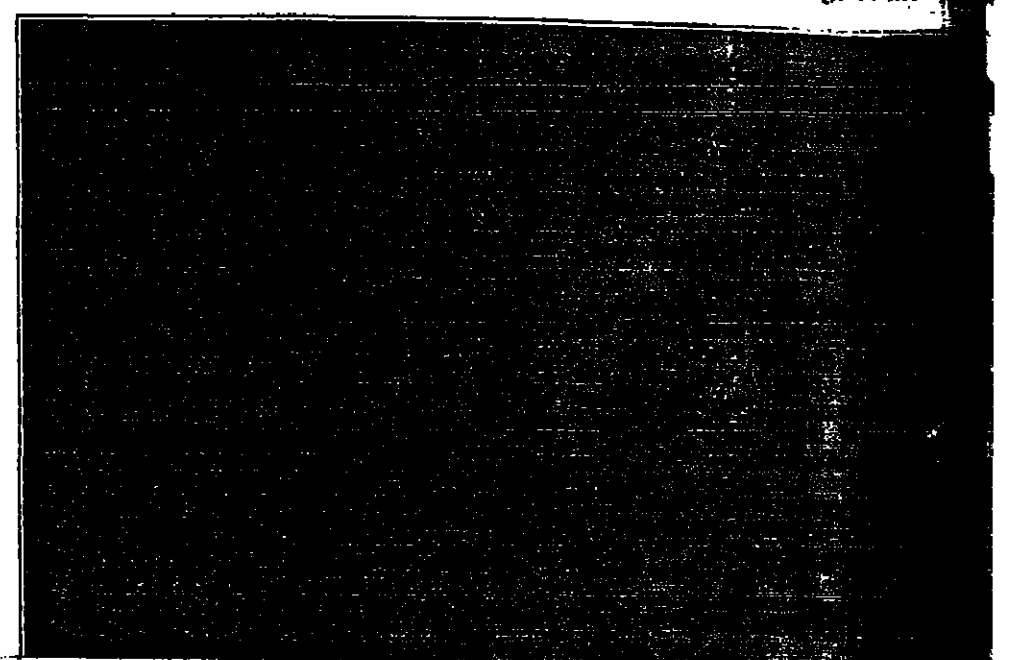
accidents do happen if they capsize, but nothing serious."

The first evidence of land sailing is in drawings on the walls of King Amenemhat III's tomb. He ruled Egypt during the late 1800s BC. There is a picture of a Chinese sailing wheelbarrow from AD550, and more recently records show that in the 15th century there were wooden fighting chariots made in Holland by an Italian for battles on land, which later were used to carry tourists along the beach.

Modern land yachting was started by Louis Bleriot, the first man to fly the English Channel, who started the first club at Le Touquet, in Normandy, around the turn of the century. It was popular in Britain in Edwardian times and came to the fore again in the early 1950s. The first British club was formed in 1951, and the BFLYC followed a few years after.

The two classes which race in Britain are class 3 and class 5. The latter is the smaller and the one people usually start in, because craft are cheaper and not so fast. For training purposes, the clubs use bigger versions which are just as fast, but which cannot capsize.

MARY WILSON On the wings of the w





Baby, look at us now

The arrival of a baby changes everything — not least the contents of your wardrobe, as Sue Peart discovered

I was an afternoon in late September when I realised that life would never be the same again. I had popped out to the corner shop for an evening paper, and on my way back I passed a man washing his car. He was a pretty ordinary kind of a bloke, and the car was an ordinary car, but sitting on the pavement at the man's feet was a rather elegant marmalade cat.

Had this been an afternoon in, say, late August, I would simply have walked past, nose in the air, and I doubt if I would have noticed the man and his car, and especially not his cat. But this being September things were different. Forgetting British reserve, I fell upon the bewildered animal with cries of "My, what a beautiful cat! How old is she?"

The man, unused to such attention being heaped on his cat, puffed up with pride. "About a year, I think," he said.

"About a year! How lovely! Tell me, does she eat up all her food? And does she sleep well at night?"

I then started stroking the cat's head and emitting strange cooing noises, causing the man to pause from his washing, sponge in hand, and even the cat to look startled.

I walked home very quickly, and lay down quietly for the rest of the afternoon.

Three weeks earlier, I had given birth. Not to a cat, you understand, but to a baby. This event had been planned with all the rigorous attention to detail of the committed control freak, determined that a small happening like childbirth should not cause the merest blip in her carefully organised schedules. I knew on which day the baby would be born (to fit in with the obstetrician's holiday in Portugal), what time the baby would be born (to fit in a visit by the dishwasher repair man on the morning of the same day), which hospital the baby would be born in (conveniently 200 yards up the road) and that she would be a she (so that I could stock up with Pampers in the pink packets).

The morning of Wednesday September 9 found me sitting in the labour ward, frowning, scratching my head and writing out copious lists to fax back to the office once the birth was over. The afternoon of the same day saw me transformed into a large lump of unsightly marshmallow, weeping copious tears of joy into a small crib containing an even smaller bundle, from which a pair of wise dark eyes was gazing steadily back at me with a look that said, "For heaven's sake, mother, get a grip!"

From then on, it was downhill all the way. The dire warnings I'd been given during pregnancy turned out to be true. Babies are indeed expensive. But it wasn't so much that infant formula costs more spoonful for spoonful than well-matured Scotch whisky, or that we could renounce the house on the cost of nappies, but that my entire wardrobe was rendered redundant overnight.

Those expensive little jackets might be just the ticket for business lunches, but are wholly inappropriate for breast feeding. Pencil skirts might be all very well for standing upright at the photocopier, but aren't much good for crawling around on all fours looking for a stray bootie.



FAR LEFT

Lucinda Henderson wears cream cashmere leggings, £127, Pringle (091-493 2727); cream Vivella shirt, £95, Margaret Howell (as above); red sweater, £160, Marion Foale (as above); brown suede hat, £75, Herbert Johnson, 30 New Bond Street, London W1; swing mac, £295, Margaret Howell (as above); Tartan blanket, £25, Buckleigh (as above); Eliza (aged one) wears red sweater, £22, green dungarees, £18, both from Anthea Moore Ede (as above); Red boots, £17, Buckle My Shoe, 19 St Christopher's Place, London W1; Green Kangol beret, £4.99, Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1.

ABOVE

Sue Peart (left) wears lace-up boots, £110 and socks, £9 from Timberland, 72 New Bond St, London W1. Sweater, £45, Racing Green (0282 443332). Beige pleated skirt, £95 and coffee spotted silk scarf, £69, Margaret Howell, 29 Beauchamp Place, London SW3. Beige Enfield cap, £15, Fenwick, Bond Street, London W1. Check shirt, £95, Margaret Howell (as above). Rosie Smythe (four months) wears cream Vivella shirt, £11.95, Patricia Wigan, 19 Walton St, SW3; green corduroy dungarees, £32, Anthea Moore Ede, 16 Victoria Grove, London W8. Green Kangol felt beret, £4.99, Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1. Hilary Russel wears white cotton shirt, £89, Margaret Howell (as above); red cardigan, £170, Marion Foale, 14 Hinde Street, London W1; cream mackintosh, £295, Margaret Howell (as above). Rust corduroy jodhpurs, £37, Boden (071-608 3230). Red Kangol Fugara Spitfire hat, £19.95, Selfridges, as above. Edward (ten weeks) wears cream sweater, £22; red dungarees, £32, both from Anthea Moore Ede (as above). Green tartan rug, £25, Buckleigh, 83 Lower Sloane Street, SW1.

LEFT

Sherrie Mead wears taupe leggings, £99, Marion Foale, 14 Hinde St, W1. Lace-up boots, £110, and socks, £9, both from Timberland, 72 New Bond St, London W1. Blue polo neck, £25, Thomas Pink, 35 Dover St, London W1. and branches. Blue spotted silk scarf, £68, Margaret Howell, 29 Beauchamp Place, London SW3. Cream hat to order from Catherine Buxton (071-602 7577). Georgia (aged two) wears blue raincoat, £70, Chippie Kids, 3 Langley Court, London WC2; green leather boots, £38, Buckle My Shoe, 19 St Christopher's Place, London W1; blue hat to order from Catherine Buxton (as above).

Photographs by John Hudson; hair and make-up by Catherine Buxton; styling by Victoria Pyman. Photographed at North Lodge Farm by kind permission of Mary Ann Paravicini.

So out went the designer suits, shoulder pads and dry-cleaning bills, and in came leggings, cotton tops from M&S and the washing machine on from dawn till dusk.

But there were unexpected advantages. Along with chest and hips, my vocabulary expanded rapidly, taking in croup and Calpol (somewhere between budget sheets and dinner parties), the marvellous Heimlich manoeuvre (for dealing with choking), and, of course, that great show-stopper familiar to all parents of small children, projectile vomiting. This last is always performed just when you least expect it,

and timed for maximum effect (passing through a hotel foyer, or handing the infant to an aged aunt for closer inspection), and is followed every time by a winning smile and much fluttering of eyelashes.

Of course, what nobody ever tells you is that motherhood is fun. People just love to drone on about sleepless nights and school fees, but never tell you that babies don't complain about having to watch the *Top Gun* video over and over just because you want to, or that when you've got one, strangers smile at you in supermarkets.

And I couldn't help wondering what they would have

thought at work if they could have seen me at 4 o'clock one morning, leaping round the baby's bedroom while she slumbered on, trying to swat a drowsy wasp with my copy of *Silent Nights for You and Your Baby*. Or the day I took her out in her pram and was so busy watching out for doggy deposits on the London pavements that I failed to notice that a bird had relieved itself spectacularly on the startled baby's forehead.

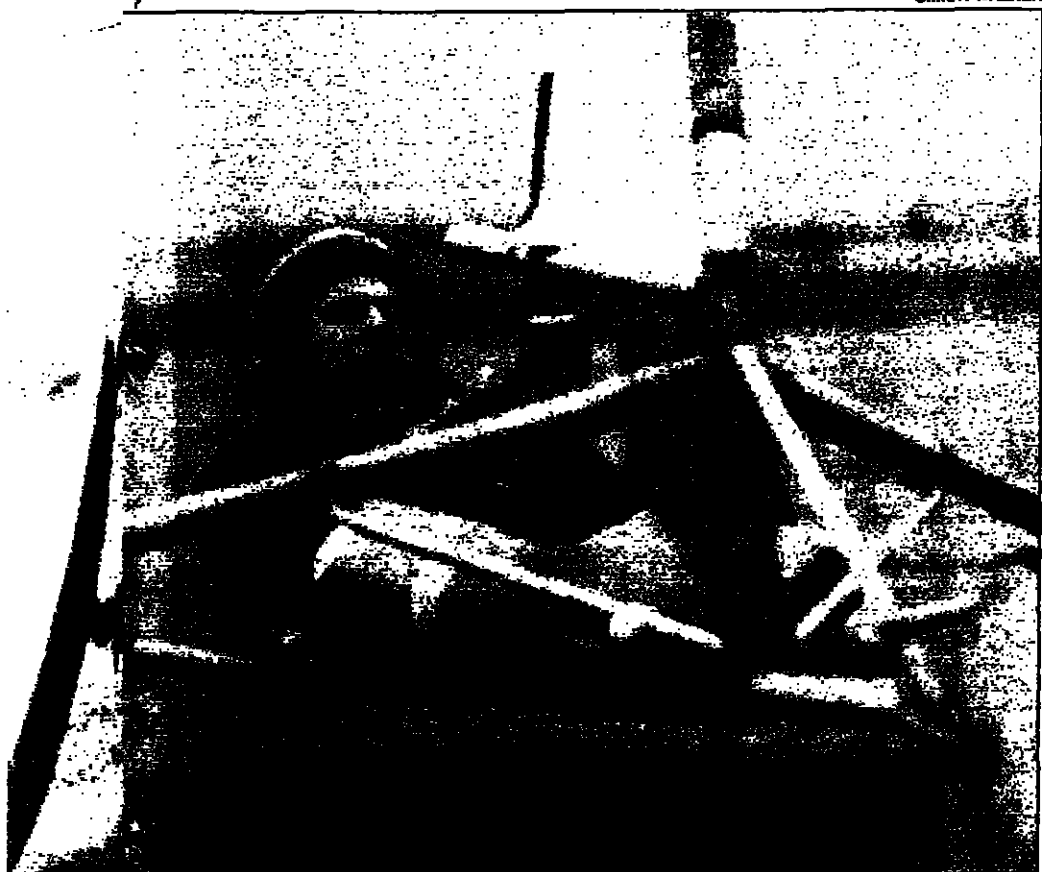
That the whole business changes you cannot be denied. I am now a confirmed cat molester. And whereas not so long ago I would have gladly

throttled the Gold Blend couple, these days my eyes fill with misty tears whenever they happen on to my TV screen. Once I regarded people pushing prams as aliens from another planet; now I get a warm feeling inside whenever one heaves into view.

All this is the result of our 13lb (at the time of writing) of pink and white perfection, with huge blue eyes, squidgy little thighs, an infectious giggle, breath like new-mown hay, and dimples in places most of us don't even have places. Her name is Rosie, and she's a good deal more adorable than a budget sheet.

wn to the drome again

SIMON WALKER



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Curl up and join the club

Jane Bidder examines what children's book clubs really have to offer

Book clubs seem a good idea, don't they? Simply browse through the catalogue with the children, choose the kind of stimulating bedtime reading which will keep a child's nose firmly between the sheets and even encourage illicit reading by torchlight after lights-out.

There are certainly enough book clubs around to choose from. But it is not as simple as it seems. First there is the service. If there is no phone number in the catalogue, you cannot contact the company fast if you have a query.

Then there is price. Most book clubs cost nothing to join, but some insist that customers buy a set of books "in order to qualify" as a member. Check that you really want these first — and that they are described in enough detail for you to decide. Scrutinise the postage and packaging prices carefully. Many companies charge 10 per cent of the total order. Some clubs offer free postage for bulk orders, so it might be worth ordering Christmas and birthday presents in advance.

A few book clubs specialise in hardbacks only. Although these make impressive presents, they are naturally more expensive than paperbacks. Check the dispatch date, too. A good club should deliver within two weeks. Any longer and you could be left in the lurch for that birthday book. And don't forget the size — carefully study the book's dimensions or description. I recently ordered *The Owl and the Pussycat* and assumed from the price that it would be a standard size. It turned out to measure about three inches by four. Not surprisingly, my daughter is put off by the microscopic print.

It is also worth shopping around for perks. Many clubs offer presents (such as soft toys) if you persuade a friend to join too. Some have "book sales", offering books from past catalogues at reduced prices. However, life of this is worth anything if the books prove unsatisfactory or arrive too late. Check the books can be sent back and that the club will reimburse the postage.

Then it is a question of finding the right club. The following are the main book clubs operating in Britain, together with the different frills (and pitfalls) they offer. The

Children's Book Foundation suggests that groups of parents share the cost of an order and then pool the books as an informal mini-library.

• The Red House
Witley, Oxfordshire OX8 5YF
(0993 779090/779959)
Issues brightly coloured catalogue every month. Easy-to-read descriptions under different age-groups. Sells audio cassettes, videos, games and stationery as well as latest books. Customers have to buy a minimum of three books in the first year. Postage and packing cost 10 per cent of total order if under £20. Pre-paid labels issued to cover return postage of unwanted books.

• Frills: excellent service. Books generally arrive within a fortnight and there are two telephone numbers for orders and enquiries. Pre-paid envelope included for written orders.
• Pitfalls: specialises in hardback books which are naturally more expensive than paperbacks. Nevertheless, claims to offer substantial discounts (as much as £4 in current catalogue) on publishers' prices.

• Scholastic Book Clubs
Westfield Road, Southam, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV33 0JH (0926 813910)
Four clubs to cover a wide age-range. Each club has free membership and no commitment to buy a certain number of books. Issues monthly catalogues with picture symbols for younger age-group to denote level. Membership open to schools as well as groups of families. No charge for postage and packaging. Postage refunds granted to cover cost of returning unwanted books.

• Frills: wide selection of books for each age-group. Few book clubs have such a choice for under-5s.

• Pitfalls: discounts are not dramatic in current catalogue (averaging 50p-£2 off).
• Tester's comments: Anthony Breads, father and teacher from Leamington Spa, says: "Book clubs are a good way of getting both



Bookworm: a good book can contribute to parental peace

parents and children interested in reading. The only disadvantage is that they can't finger the books before buying."

• Letterbox Library
Second floor, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP (071-226 1633)
Specialises in non-sexist and non-racist books. Run by members of a women's co-operative, who try out the books on their own children. Issues free newsletter as well as holding occasional open days with wheelchair access. Members encouraged to suggest books which Letterbox has not come across. Claims to offer discounts of at least 15 per cent on hardbacks and ten per cent on paperbacks. Postage and packing cost 10 per cent of total order plus 30p. Only free for orders exceeding £50. Cost of postage back unwanted books "decided on individual basis".
• Frills: friendly, efficient service

run by mothers who obviously care.

• Pitfalls: catalogues only issued quarterly, which may not be frequently enough for an avid reader. You also have to pay a once-off joining fee of £5, provided you promise to buy three books during the first year, or you can become a subscriber for an annual fee of £5 without a commitment to buy.
• Tester's comments: a Quaker with a seven-year-old daughter at a racially mixed school in Reading, Jane Servillier, Grossfield enjoys Letterbox's wide selection of books "with strong heroines", which she reads aloud to children at her daughter's school. Out of 60 books ordered over the last seven years, she has returned only one.

• The Bookworm Club
20 Trinity Street, Cambridge CB2 3NG (0223 358351)
Open to schools or individual families. Well presented catalogues for two age-groups (Early Worm for

under fives and Book Worm for five to 11-year-olds). Specialises in new paperbacks and hardbacks. No joining fee. If ordered through a school, the school receives 10 per cent of the total order value to spend as it wishes.

• Frills: books dispatched within 48 hours of order. No postage and packing charged. Refunds given for posting back unwanted books.
• Pitfalls: no discounts for private orders. Books are the same price as they are in shops.

• Tester's comments: Margaret Elder, Cambridge primary school teacher and mother, says: "Bookworm sends a supply of books for us to browse through before ordering, so we can see what we're buying."

• Puffin Book Club
27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ (071-938 2200)
Three catalogues — issued eight times a year — aimed at under-5s, six to nine years, and nine to 13. Includes top names at pocket-money prices (for example, *The Borrowers*, £2.99). Various "freebies" — every time a child orders a book, he or she receives a badge, sticker or bookmark. No postage or packaging charge.

• Frills: wide choice of new books.
• Pitfalls: only open to schools. If you forget to send your child's order back by the final date, there will be a disappointed face when the rest of the class receive their books.
• Tester's comments: my own children love this book club. We pore over the lists during breakfast and are then late for school.

• Books For Children
PO Box 70, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 4Z (0793 420000)
Monthly catalogues sent out with "special introductory offer" of seven books for £1.99. After that, the customer has to buy at least four books a year from monthly lists.

• Frills: some nice books available. The special offer seems good value.
• Pitfalls: difficult to contact — the company telephone number is not sent out on each monthly catalogue because the club "prefers customers to send written queries". Customers also have to foot their own postage cost if returning books. Orders can take up to eight weeks, which is hopeless if the book is needed for a special occasion.

• Tester's comments: Janet Thomas, mother of two from London, says: "If you forget to send the form back — as I have done — you automatically receive books you don't want."

Events

LONDON

International Mime Festival: The French trio Les Cousins combines juggling, balancing and acrobatics. *Purcell Room, South Bank, tonight-Tues 8pm; mat tomorrow, 3pm. £3.50, £7.*

Inside Out: A tapestry of sound and images in woven fabric, a simple story (for under-5s) about a traveller looking for a place to rest, staged by the award-winning young director Graeme Miller. *Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Today, 11.30am, 2pm. £2.75.*

The Science of Light: MOM's workshop explores how the properties of light played a crucial role in the development of the moving image. (Seven to 11-year-olds.) *Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, SE1 (071-815 1331). Wed, 10.30am-2.30pm. £3.*

Legend Quest: A new virtuality leisure arcade opens. Participants can enter a 360-degree, colour, 3D computer-generated world. (Over eights.) *Virtual Quest, 2 Tower Hill Terrace, EC3 (071-488 2808). Daily, 10am-10pm. Time is purchased at approximately 50p per minute.*

Here, Here to the Ozone Layer: Ecological tale for the three to seven-year-olds. *Warehouse, Dingle Road.*

Croydon (081-680 4060). Today, 11am. £2.50, £1.50.

NATIONWIDE

Abderrazek: David Wood's exceptionally well-adapted version of Roshdi Dahi's award-winning thriller *The Witches*.

His Majesty's Theatre, Rosemount Viaduct (0224 641122). Tues-Fri, 1.45pm and 7pm. Sat, 11am and 3pm. £5-£3.50.

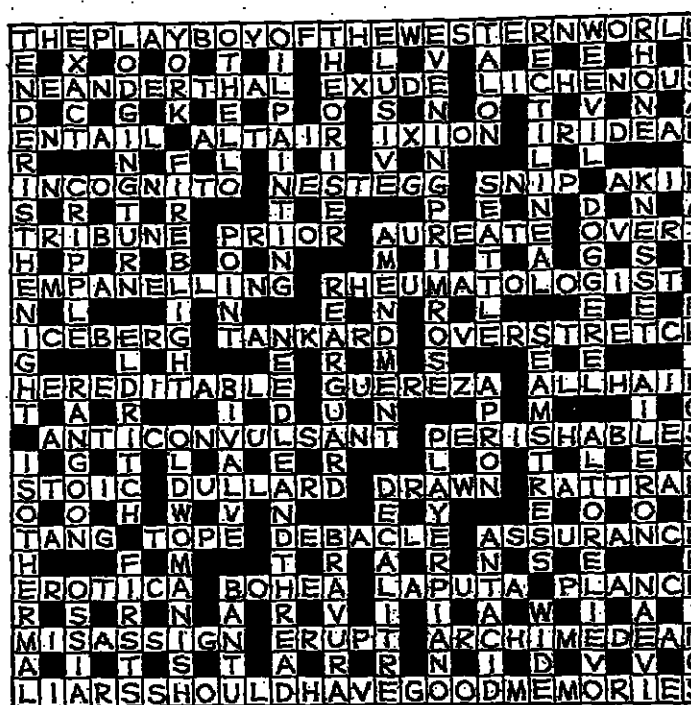
Barnes: "Inside Out" (see London). *Old Bull Arts Centre, 68 High Street, SW18-4 9QJ. Tomorrow, 3pm. £2.50.*

Canterbury: Molecule Theatre of Science presents *Struck By Lightning*, written by Nona Sheppard in relation to the National Curriculum for Science. (Seven to 11-year-olds.) *Gulbenkian Theatre, Giles Lane (0227 769075). Tues-Fri, 10.30am, 1.30pm. £3.*

Oxford: The cast of *Sesame Street* Live, featuring life-size characters of the popular American television show, in a song-and-dance show touring Britain until May. *Apollo Theatre, George Street, Oxford (0685 344544). Tues-next Sat, variously at 10.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm. £8.50, £5.50 (family ticket £18).*

KARI KNIGHT

Jumbo solution



The following people have each won £50 in the New Year jumbo competition published on January 2: Eric Read of Warley, West Midlands; Philip Clive of London WC2; Miss P.M. Simpkin of Worcester; Sheelagh Jeffries of Richmond, Surrey; John P. Evans of Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

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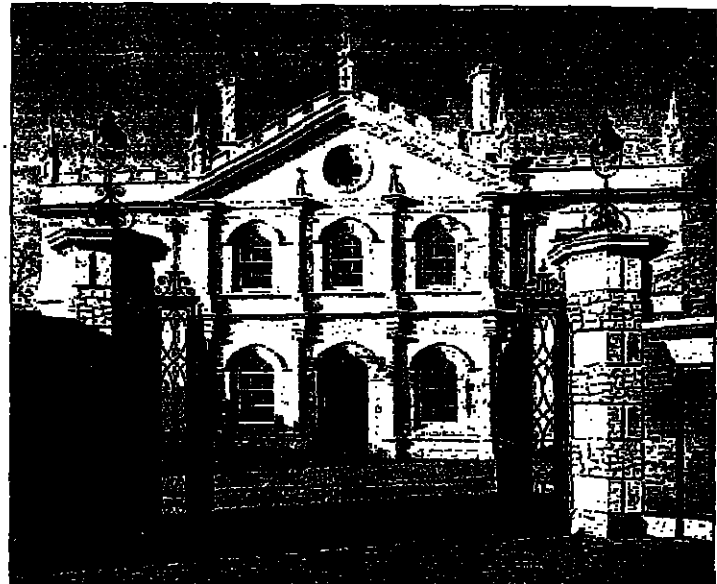
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Rachel Kelly visits the newest of Quinlan Terry's villas in Regent's Park, at £6.75 million one of the smartest addresses in London



Late flower of Nash's grand plan

The Princess of Wales lives in one. So do Princess Alexandra, the Royal Ballet School, several industrial magnates, a brace of Arab sheikhs, and at least half a dozen gardeners. Now you too can live in

a London park, thanks to the unveiling last week of the third villa designed by Quinlan Terry to be built in Regent's Park.

The matter of a cheque for £6.75 million will seem trifling when one considers that the Terry villas apart, no new house has been built in a London park for at least a century, and apart from the three further Terry villas that have yet to be built, no other construction seems likely.

It is nearly impossible even to build a house with a close view of a park. The royal parks have a 15ft strip encircling them called a crown "freehold", which prevents building under any circumstances around the perimeter.

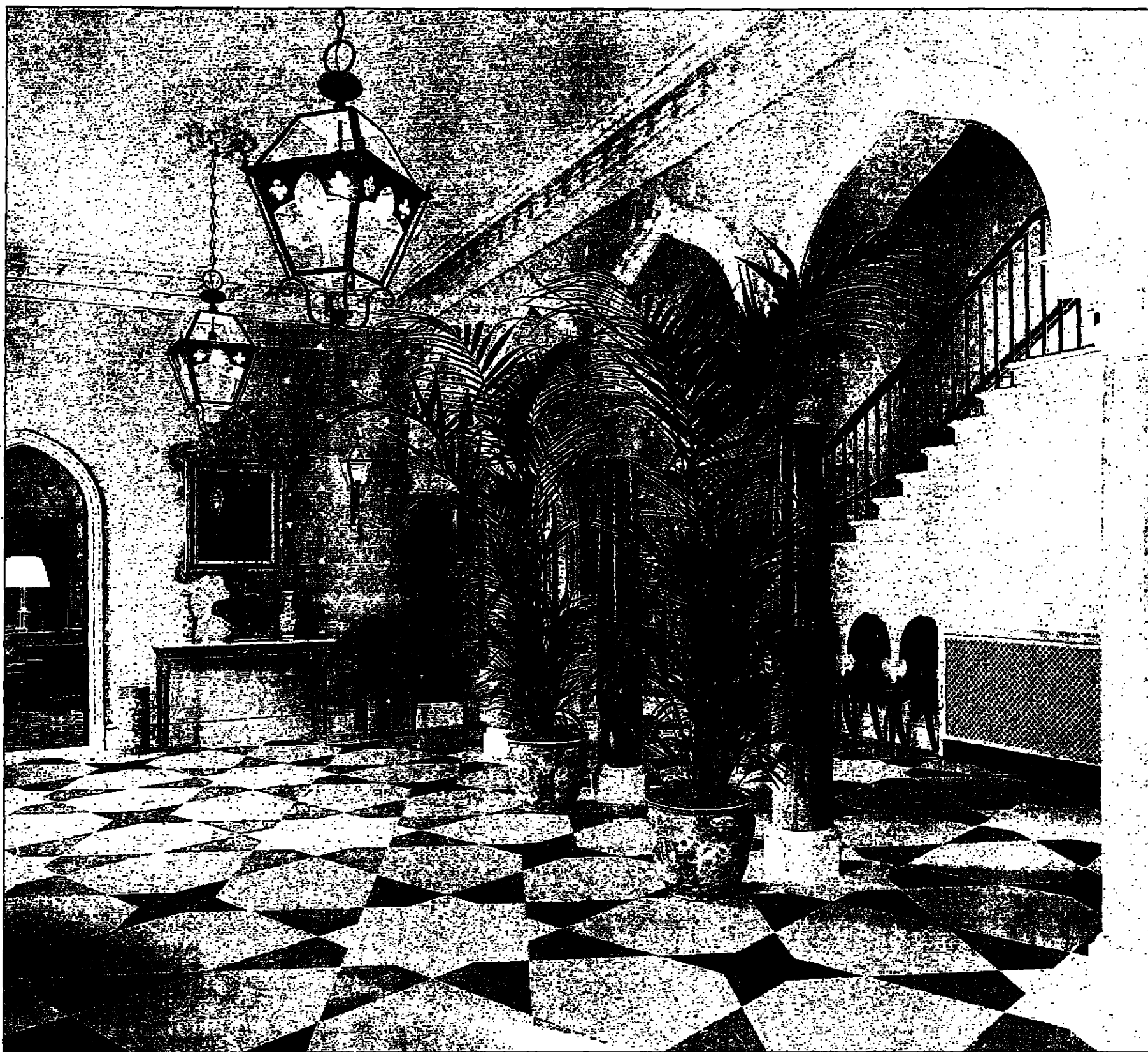
While some London parks were originally the grounds of nearby estates, such as Holland Park, the seat of Lord Holland, or Kensington Gardens, originally the grounds of Kensington Palace, most London parks stemmed from an explosion of Victorian philanthropy and were to be green spaces uninterrupted by bricks and mor-

tar. Benefactors of the day talked of "wholesome air", "uninterrupted promenades" and the instruction of the populace, although often the same benefactors had polluted the air in the first place with their factories and mills.

Regent's Park was different. It was to be a developer's paradise, and the developer's name was John Nash. He planned 56 classical villas with terraces, each invisible to its neighbours and thus appearing to be in sole enjoyment of the estate, a *rus in urbe*, but only eight villas were eventually built.

Nash began transforming the fields and farmlands of Marylebone Park into the stucco-faced terraces of the crown's new estate in 1811, with the laying out of its main framework, the Inner and Outer Circles. He planned not only his villas and a peripheral ring of terraces, but a double inner circle, a small royal palace, a church, a barracks, and a service area, according to *The Regent's Park Villas*, an excellent short history by Ann Saunders, published in 1981.

The Napoleonic wars delayed his plans as uncertainty led speculators to withdraw their cash. By 1818, peace had returned and building began. Soon commentators of the day wrote of how they remembered



Crowning glory: the exterior (above left) and main hall (above) of the third Terry villa in Regent's Park, part of the Crown Estate's plan to revive John Nash's vision

the fields, where they "gathered blackberries as boys". "This pretty place, I am sorry to see, those bricks-and-mortar gentry have trampled upon," Ephraim Hardcastle wrote.

Others were more enthusiastic about Nash's villas. James Elmes, an architect and commentator, wrote in 1823: "The villas are surrounded by such luxuriant vegetation of shrubs and trees, and flowers redolent of beauty and of the sweetest perfume."

In Nash's day, the villas were lived in by men in trade, philanthropists, soldiers and scientists, while other residents, such as Lord Hertford, Marquess Wellesley, the

Earl of Beville and Sir Robert Arbuthnot, had connections with George IV. Now, says Paul Taylor from Savills, which is selling the Terry villa, Arabs or Americans are the most likely takers.

An Indian magnate has bought the first Terry villa to be completed, the Ionic villa which was sold in mid-1990. The Veneto villa has yet to find a buyer, but negotiations are in progress, Savills says.

At the entrance on the Outer Circle, gates sweep open electronically to reveal the house, a small, creamy wedding cake with crenellated edges. There is too little space between the house and the road, making it seem cramped.

But that is not Mr Terry's fault. His design was circumscribed by the site made available to him by the Crown Estate which, on expiry of the lease ten years ago, decided to redevelop what were then a sprawl of post-war buildings owned by Bedford College. The Crown Estate chose to continue in the footsteps of Nash with plans for six more villas.

Mr Terry says his aim has been to get into Nash's shoes and go on walking into the 20th century. He sees the house as having a public face on to the Outer Circle, but, as in the original plan,

the best view of the house is from the canal at the rear.

The view from the canal or river was always the most important view for a Palladian villa on the Brenta canal in the Veneto in Italy," Mr Terry says. "I was influenced by Venetian and Gothic styles. Their country villas were built along canals, quite close together. You should see the house from the towpath, and ideally arrive from the river."

Potential buyers of the villas, and indeed the Indian who has already bought one, plan changes to the houses themselves, extending the servants' wings which are rather small. The interiors are as luxuri-

ous as you could wish, with all modern cons, and all five bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms.

Any change must be agreed with the Crown Estate and Mr Terry himself — one snag of buying a house which will be constantly under the watchful eye of the Crown Estate Commissioners.

The other disappointment is that London Waterways will not allow the new owner to moor a boat at the bottom of the smallish garden, which runs steeply down to the river (traditionally, the steep gradient would have prevented flooding. Mr Terry points out, if Mr Terry lived there himself, his aim would be to change its mind.



Looking for love: 19th-century manor in need of restoration

Cheap and near

The dilapidated 19th-century manor house above, in six acres of park and woodland near the river Somme in Picardy, is for sale at FF450,000 (about £53,000), including agency fees, (Cheryl Taylor writes). Last summer the same property was on the market for £90,000. It is 30 minutes' drive from the city of Amiens, an hour from Euro Disney and within easy reach of the Channel port of Boulogne.

The property needs some external renovation, central heating and redecoration. It has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, two reception rooms with marble fireplaces and oak-paneled walls, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, games room, playroom and study, plus a large attic and wine cellar. It comes with a garage and several outbuildings.

The UK agent is Barbers, 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, London SW6 (071-381 0112).

The old province of Picardy, north of Paris, with Amiens as its capital, corresponds to the present-day départements of the Somme, the Oise and the Aisne. It is not the most attractive part of France in which to live, with a mainly flat, monotonous landscape littered with the battlefields and cemeteries of both world wars.

There are, however, some handsome towns and peaceful villages set amid wooded hills and ancient



Buyer's France
PICARDY

forest, away from the main routes to Paris in the south and east. It contains many of France's finest cathedrals, including Beauvais, Noyon and Laon at the centre. And in the west, along the shores of the Channel, there are stretches of beautiful coastal scenery and some attractive bathing resorts.

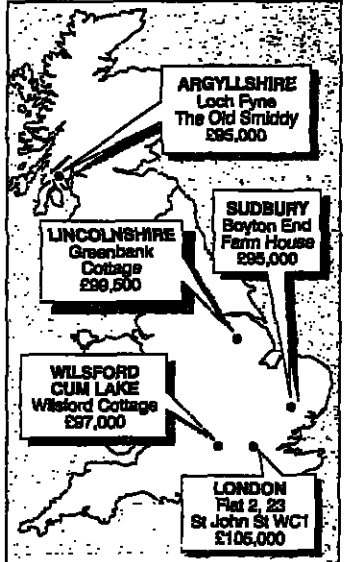
For British weekenders, Picardy is easily accessible, being only a short drive from the northern French ports of Dieppe, Calais and Boulogne, with the Channel tunnel exit on the doorstep. Low property prices are an added attraction.

Coastal prices start at FF250,000 (about £29,000) for a simple waterfront cottage in Le Crotoy, a small fishing village on the bay of the Somme, famous for its restaurants serving *fruits de mer*. UK agents Sitex, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-384 1200) and Northern France Properties, 70, Brewer Street, London W1 (071-386 9826) handle property here.

FOR SALE

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From a Scottish
smithy to Suffolk
farmhouse,
Cheryl Taylor finds
some inexpensive
properties



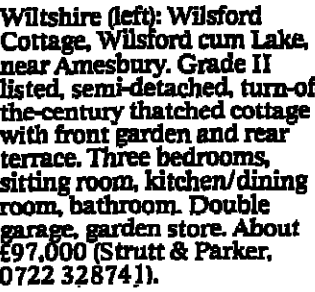
Scotland: The Old Smiddy, by Kilmarnock, Loch Fyne, Argyllshire. Converted blacksmith's shop on the shores of Loch Fyne. Two bedrooms, bathroom, drawing room, kitchen/dining room and cloakroom; plus self-contained studio flat at lower-ground level. Landscaped gardens. About £95,000 (Savills, 0356 622187).



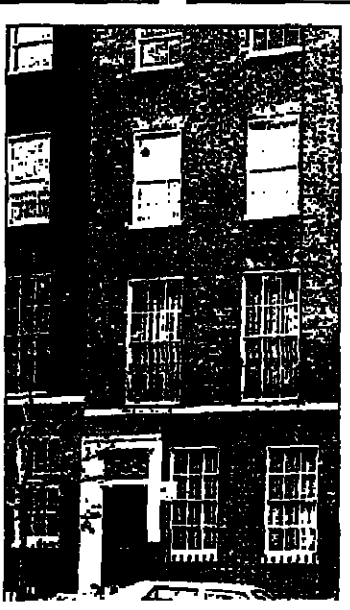
Lincolnshire (above): Greenbank Cottage, Castle Bytham. Detached 17th-century stone cottage with south-facing rear garden. Three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms (with inglenook fireplaces and beamed ceilings), kitchen, utility room, study. Garage, garden store. About £99,500 (Savills, 0780 66222).



Suffolk (above): Boyton End Farm House, near Sudbury. Quietly situated farmhouse (formerly two cottages) in need of some improvement. Four bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom. Gardens, stables and outbuildings. About £95,000 (Bidwells, 0223 841842).



Wiltshire (left): Wilsford Cottage, Wilsford cum Lake, near Amesbury. Grade II listed, semi-detached, turn-of-the-century detached cottage with front garden and rear terrace. Three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/dining room, bathroom. Double garage, garden store. About £97,000 (Strutt & Parker, 0722 328741).



London (left): Flat 2, 23 John Street, WC1. Modernised first-floor flat in Georgian building. One bedroom, reception room with ornamental balconies, fitted kitchen and bathroom. About £105,000 for 125-year lease. Ground rent £100 per annum. Service charges to be assessed. (Keith Cardale Groves, 071-495 2494).

The sample man's guide to hit records

As Jesus Jones prepare to storm the world's charts again, David Sinclair talks to Mike Edwards, their frankly perverse leader

This time the revolution will be computerised! Like a train shooting out of a tunnel, the slogan which defines the new Jesus Jones album comes leaping out of a dense patchwork of mechanistic drum beats, buzzing synthesizers and industrial percussion effects. The song is "Zeros And Ones", the album is *Perseus* (Food 80647) and the group's singer, guitarist, songwriter and leader is Mike Edwards. It's a great catchline.

"Yes," he accepts without undue modesty. "It also happens to be true. Pretty much every part of our lives is now dominated by computers. You'll write this up on a word processor. I'll go home and watch satellite TV and play with my video games. Any phone calls we make will be routed by computers, aircraft flights are navigated by computers, even tube trains are computer-monitored. The zeros and ones are all around."

To characterise Edwards as a man at ease with all this digital technology would be like saying that Winnie the Pooh is mildly partial to honey. At the age of 28, Edwards is one of the first

established rock stars to have grown up steeped in modern music-making technology — indeed, not really to know much of anything else.

At their most extreme Jesus Jones make music without any musical instruments at all. The standout track on *Doubt*, their previous album, which topped the British charts in 1991, was "Stripped", which Edwards is pleased to call "electronic noise warfare".

'Grunge is totally backwards-looking. It's my parents' music'

It was done "with a drum loop taken off the radio, and everything else was just noise". While *Perseus*, their third album, sounds rather more conventional, Edwards insists that it is, in fact, the product of even more sampled, synthesized and computerised studio effects than ever before.

"The fashion in sampling now is for much more subtle things," he says. So even if *Perseus* does sound more "normal", that is no reason to imagine that various members of the band actually stood around in a studio playing musical instruments either individually or collectively. "That didn't happen at all," Edwards insists. "All the guitar parts were sampled. There aren't actually any live perfor-



"Pretty much every part of our lives is now dominated by computers. The zeros and ones are all around": Mike Edwards on the binary that ties him

mances whatsoever on this album, other than the vocals."

Edwards is a bright, open personality with thought processes and a speech pattern as fast-moving as an amusement arcade machine. But he bristles ever so slightly at the suggestion that the net result of all this advanced technological firepower is an album that is sleek, hard and functional, but lacking in soul.

"No. People, especially from a conventional rock background, always think. 'It's

machines, therefore it's soulless.' But technology is so advanced that it's actually a far more expressive medium than, say, the electric guitar. The guitar you have to play in a certain way and a certain sound comes out."

"But if I sit down with my keyboard or my midi-guitar [a guitar which can write the language that samplers and keyboards use] I can play a guitar line in my style and have it come out as a piano line, or a drum line, or

anything. If the album does sound functional and hard you can't blame that on the technology. That's the way I write. I think this album actually has more feel because the technology is better, ironically."

Born in the City of London and schooled, among other places, at Crown Woods Comprehensive in the south London suburb of Eltham, Edwards enjoyed a "straightforward" upbringing, but for a "blip" which occurred when

his mother, a nurse, and his father ("something to do with M15"), gave in to a bout of wanderlust having reached their early thirties.

They sold the family home, packed all their belongings into a Land-Rover and took off with the nine-year-old Edwards and his younger brother on a three-year drive that took them to Africa, India and Asia.

After returning to England, Edwards left school as soon as he had finished his O-levels,

"because I wanted to be a rock star".

Convinced in 1988, Jesus Jones won immediate acclaim for their blend of traditional pop melody with modern rap and house influences. Their first single, a demo recording which cost £125 to make, reached the British Top 50 at the beginning of 1989. In 1991 they, together with EMF, spearheaded a minor British invasion of the American charts, Jesus Jones reaching No 2 with their single

"Right Here, Right Now", and selling more than a million copies of *Doubt*.

But, for Edwards, the past is another country and one which he does not care to visit. He is particularly scathing about the grunge revolution, and the sudden torrent of old-fashioned electric guitar riffs threatening to engulf the brave new world of techno so dear to his heart.

"Grunge is totally backwards-looking," he says. "It's my parents' music. Deep Purple were bad enough the first time around. I think it is important to be aware of what decade you're living in."

Edwards has never made any secret of his ambition, nor is he one to hide his light under a bushel. Both are traits which have earned him more suspicion than respect. The group has frequently been characterised as a bunch of stooges led by an egomaniac, a suggestion he strenuously refutes.

"I'm the one with the majority of ideas, but the rest of the band are signed to the same [record] deal as me and they get the same money as me. And there have been no changes of personnel since we started," he points out, reasonably enough.

"I suppose I should pretend to be a little bit more stupid and unconventional and I should be more anti-social when I talk to people like you. But I can't be bothered to lie that much. Rock music is full of great lies. Anyway, any intelligent journalist would see through it right away. In the end I'd rather be criticised for what I am than for what I pretend to be."

● *Perseus* is released on Monday

In harmony with the past

Sounds sacred and secular from the 15th and 16th centuries still have the power to enthrall

I make no apology for forsaking now and again the mainstream, high-sales recorded repertoire and going back to the music of the 15th and 16th centuries. Some might think such distant art is strictly the province of ivory-towered academics and misty-eyed ecclesiastics. But not so. Just like the sacred paintings of Piero della Francesca, this art is for all. It speaks of emotions shared by everybody, and it is very beautiful.

Collins Classics have reached the third volume in their *Eton Choirbook* series. The disc (Collins Classics 13422) is the most musically fascinating as well as the best performed and recorded of the series, and includes an informative, perceptive and succinct note by John Milson.

As far as the performances are concerned, it is difficult to believe that any late 15th or early 16th century choir could have sung this music with the refined blend, the rich tone, or the shapeliness shown by *The Sixteen*, under the direction of Harry Christophers.

The disc (called *The Pillars of Eternity* after a phrase in Spenser's *The Faerie Queen*) opens with a real summer. Milson tells us that the *Eton* manuscript indicates that Richard Davy's "O Domine caeli terrae creator" was written in a single day, a feat hard to credit for such a large, complex design as this. Also by Davy are two polyphonic songs in the vernacular, neither contained in the *Choirbook* itself. Though refined and assured, "Ah, mine heart, remember thee well"



To the greater glory of God: Harry Christophers conducts The Sixteen choir in rehearsal

stands as a modest work beside the more expressively vivid "Ah, blessed Jesu, how fortunate this".

Walter Lambe's "Stella caeli", meanwhile, urgently exhorts the Virgin Mary to protect earthly souls from plague, providing a contrast with William Cornish's gently supplicatory "Ave Maria Mater Dei". Last the contempo-

added. The music is a 13-part canon for male voices, here allowed to run its course so that the last voice to enter is left alone at the end.

By contrast with this essentially medieval art, the slightly later music of Nicolas Gombert, born about 1500 in French Flanders, is the epitome of the high renaissance. Gombert worked for much of

er. He cultivated a musical style of seamless textures and ideas that freely overlapped. This collection, sung by the Belgium-based Huelgas Ensemble, directed by Paul Van Nieuwen, in suitably intimate style, and given a closely miked recording of almost milky depth and clarity (Sony Classical Vivarte SK 48 249), includes some of his finest pieces.

There is the lavish "Regina coeli" for 12 predominantly low voices, and the lovely motets "In te Domine speravi" and dark-hued "Media vita", both given plenty of space; there are two masterly chansons, the harmonically spicy "Tous les regrets" and the ravishingly melancholic "Je prens congé", and a comparatively formal "Magnificat", one of eight settings written relatively late in Gombert's life which epitomise his dense and disciplined art at its purest.

STEPHEN PETTIT

CLASSICAL RECORDS

rary relevance be missed, we have our own hells to fear, even though most of us might call on humanity, science or just plain hope to save us.

But for ingenuity it would be hard to beat Robert Wykinson's bizarre "Jesus autem transiens / Credo in unum Deum". In this work the text of the Creed is divided into 12 segments, each signifying an apostle, and a 13th line, "Jesus autem transiens" ("Jesus then passing through their midst").

his professional life for the Spanish court. He quickly gained a widespread reputation, but in 1538 he found himself demoted to the rank of galley-rower as a consequence of a sexual misdemeanour with a choirboy. Even in his shackles he continued to compose, however, and after a couple of years landed himself a clerical position in the provincial city of Tournai.

Taught by Josquin, Gombert was a formidable compos-

David Thomas shows Matt Johnson where he gets off, lyrically speaking

Definitely definite article

ROCK RECORDS

In a specially video-taped interview, Matt Johnson, leader of The The, elaborated recently on the thinking behind the video used to promote "Dogs Of Lust", his current hit. "What we tried to do," he said, "was to create the impression of incredible heat, unbearable heat. And we thought: the best way to do that was to make it unbearably hot. So we got in these industrial heaters... and put three of them on full blast."

The statement is typical of the streak of literal thinking that runs through all of Johnson's work, and shows no signs of abating on The The's new album *Dusk* (Epic 472468). Although more reflective and less apocalyptic in tone than its predecessor, *Mind Bomb*, released in 1989, *Dusk* suffers from the same embarrassingly earnest tone. "If you can't change the world, change yourself." "The more I see / The less I know" and "Oh it's a wicked world" are typical of the many leaden slogans which betray Johnson's inability to put poetic distance between his blindingly obvious thoughts and his lyrics.

DRUMSTICKS flying, teeth locked somewhere between a smile and a grimace, Art Blakey heaved his Jazz Messengers through countless residencies and festivals in his mission to spread the gospel of hard bop. Sadly, those steamy nights have gone, but the legacy survives in a triple-disc memorial, *The History of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers* (Blue Note CDPT-97190).

The earliest edition of the group (represented here by "The Thin Man"), made its debut in 1947, but the celebrated Messengers sound — bebopish figures under-



Stating the obvious: Matt Johnson, leader of The The

Musically the signs are more encouraging. Having retained the same players who toured the *Mind Bomb* album, including Johnny Marr, the former Smiths guitarist, The The have evolved a bluesy, sometimes even jazzy, sound that is flexible, soulful and, against the odds, fairly modern in outlook. There are several engaging melodies,

and moments of dramatic tension, all of which would work much better were it not for the absurdly breathy and melodramatic sub-Lennon singing style which Johnson has cultivated. Still, after 13 years at the helm of The The, this is probably about as good as he is going to get.

Belly is the new group led by Tanya Donnelly of Throwing

Muses and Breeders fame. Their debut album, *Star* (A&D 3002), is an entrancing combination of regulation garage-band guitar-and-drum bashing and Donnelly's glacial, sometimes spacey, vocals. This mixture of poise and passion, although sometimes falling short of the mark, reaches its apogee on "White Belly", which finds Donnelly's dulcet tones skating gracefully across the surface of a majestic chord sequence that descends in slightly odd semi-tone steps.

Seventeen years since their first incarnation, Pere Ubu, the original "avant-garde" band, are still capable of springing the odd surprise on *Story Of My Life* (Fontana 514 159). The sudden switch from a plaintive voice and melodeon arrangement to full power-chord wig-out on the opening cut, "Wasted", is only the beginning.

Led as always by the redoubtable David Thomas, the latest four-piece line-up makes a sound that is as mainstream-compatible as anything the band has previously released. That still leaves plenty of room for some wonderfully surreal lyrics which fans of the band will treasure.

DAVID SINCLAIR

A different drummer

JAZZ RECORDS

pinned by a slower, funkier backbeat — took another decade to evolve.

Not surprisingly, this survey places the emphasis on the fertile period which lasted from Bobby Timmons's much-copied piano blues riff on "Moanin'" in 1958 to Wayne Shorter's aptly named "Free for All" six years later. The contents of the third disc can be considered an

optional extra, in spite of the presence of young blades like Bobby Watson and Bill Pierce.

Slowly and grudgingly, the jazz world is beginning to come to terms with Harry Connick Jr. Having committed the heinous crime of winning platinum discs, the New Orleans singer-pianist was immediately dismissed as a lightweight matinee idol.

But anyone who listens with an open mind to 25 (Columbia 472809) will realise how steadily he has developed. No worldly big band charts this time. On this engagingly informal set of standards, he adopts the role of the bar room performer who is content to jam away in the corner after closing time.

I doubt that this offering will put an end to the carping. The point to remember, though, is that he is helping to lead his public back to the great storehouse of American popular song.

CLIVE DAVIS

Aurora borealis goes on show

ICE DANCE

Sleeping Beauty
Sunderland Empire

The man rash enough, while wearing ice skates, to attempt *entrechats* is likely to find himself an ambulance case. Which is one of the reasons why this production of *The Sleeping Beauty* by the Russian All Stars does not attempt Petipa's choreography, although sticking fairly closely to the story.

This is supposed to be the year of wall-to-wall Tchaikovsky, 100 years after his death. Both the Royal Ballet companies have announced performances of *The Sleeping Beauty*. English National Ballet is expected to follow with a new production. But the All Stars' tour is aiming at a different audience, intending popular entertainment, and not exactly treating Tchaikovsky with kid gloves.

No need to complain too much about a few cuts in the score, and some rearrangement, especially to give Olga Volozhinskaya's wicked fairy Carabosse more prominence than usual: a characterisation as flamboyant-

ly dominant as her woefully spiralling black and white wig. But the recorded account of the music does sometimes skid into unexpected endings or transitions, is perhaps too loudly broadcast, and is frequently interrupted by the metallic hiss or clank of the blades.

Beside Carabosse, the other character to run away with his opportunities is the comic master of ceremonies, Catalabutte. It is not just that Tatiana Tarasova's choreography and production let him repeatedly upstage his royal employers, but that she has understandably been unable to resist exploiting Leonid Kazakov's virtuosity. His skill

and bravura had the audience applauding even in the prologue.

Skating is good at these quick rumbustious sets, less so at the small detail of footwork for which much of this music is written. The biggest sufferer, unfortunately, is Princess Aurora, and Inna Volynskaya's performance does suggest an American student from queen rather than a fairy-tale princess. However, she slams home her cute pertness with wholehearted conviction.

Natalia Bolshakova's costumes (Aurora's tulle alone excepted) cleverly use long skirts for the women and white boots for everyone to avoid drawing too much attention to the silver blades. Performing on a theatre stage, the cast look a little cramped at times, but never let it diminish their enthusiasm.

The production is at Sunderland until January 30, then tours until June 12.

JOHN PERCIVAL

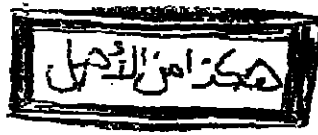


Stars: Inna Volynskaya and Valery Spiridonov

THE SUNDAY TIMES A brush with Hockney

The paintings are about movement, but that is about all I can say. I sit by the sea, which is in a state of constant motion, and just let my thoughts run. I did that in Malibu and at Bridlington in Yorkshire, where my sister and mother live. I think the paintings speak for themselves. If not, it doesn't matter. They speak to me.

David Hockney has returned to the paintbrush after a decade experimenting with everything from Polaroids to fax art. View Hockney's new abstract paintings tomorrow, in *The Culture* section of *The Sunday Times*, when Georgie Greig meets Bradford's best-known artist in New York at the opening of his latest exhibition



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CHANNEL 7

6.00 **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (H) (154148) 8.25 Spill and
 Herodotes: Cartoon fun with the cat and dog (390595) 8.00 **Alfred**
 J. Kwesi: Takes a musical tack (390935) 7.00 **Wheeler**
 & Wuehler: Musical spoofs (3) (555056) 7.25 **Jayne and the Wheelies**
 & the Warriors (H) (541410) 8.00 **Seduced by the Devil**: Science-fiction
 drama (821778) 8.25 **High School**: Comedy of growing (400033)
 8.00 **Nines** (400593) 8.15 **Nazareth**: Upcoming new (32363)
 10.00 **News World Sport: International**: Upcoming new (32363)
 11.00 **Canadian Football**: The fallen league (19588)
 12.00 **American Football** (H) (44584)
 12.30 **Songs and Memories**: Shonté Brown talks to Zenger (34585)
 about her decision to give up a career in journalism to help the
 cause of children in jail (58525) 1.00 **Snow** (44585)
 1.10 **Channel 4 Reading from Kempton**: The 1.20, 1.50, 2.20 and 2.60
 races (7000116)
 3.15 **Police**: **Black and Blue** (1948, b/w). Thoughtful western, surreal on
 characters, then action, with Gregory Peck as the leader of an outlaw
 gang hiding out in a desert ghost town inhabited by an ancient gold
 prospector. Directed by William A. Wellman (2198503)
 5.05 **Brookside Omnibus** (H) (Teletext) (348413)
 5.30 **Right to Reply**: Today's social discussion with Mark Gornall,
 whose company markets Red Bull, the energy drink, the Danish hard-core
 porn channel which has been received in Britain (Teletext) (3743)
 7.05 **News**: This week includes the social security secretary, Piers
 Lacey, met; being interviewed about the future of the benefits system
 (5550)



The mean streets of San Francisco: Kurt Russell

2.0.0 *Adventures*
CH-CHOICE: Leo Dickenson, a cameraman noted for his hair-raising documentaries, tells a colorful Australian, Chris Dewhurst, fly over Everest in a hot air balloon. A second balloon team then brings it. That, at least, is the plan, though as this documentary relates, much can go wrong even before the balloons take to the air. There is a sunny trek to the base camp with tons of gear and food. There is a heated altercation in which Dickenson accuses Dewhurst of cheating. Dewhurst denies it. And one of the last up to go is given emergency medical attention. The men recall a similar Japanese expedition, which almost ended in tragedy. "Dying," Dickenson muses, "is a very real possibility." You begin to think the trip will never happen. Suffice to say that it does, the wait is worth while and there is the bonus of a dramatic finale. (Telecast) (5946)

3.0.0 *Stephen King's Golden Years* Fourth episode in the six-part film series by the bestselling author. Harlan reacts to racism his way. (Telecast) (5910)

10.0.0 *Saturday Zoo* Jimmy Neil Jones Jonathan Ross as his celebrity cohort. With guests Dennis Leary, John Sparkes and Steve Corran (s) (8897)

11.0.0 *Heady Steady Go!* (aka) *Following the Beach Boys*, *The Beatles* *Sandra Shrewsbury and the Kids* (19804)

11.5.0 *Shogun* *Samurai Siliens*
CH-CHOICE: Goro Arakawa, presents a sober and respectful documentary about child abuse, featuring first-hand accounts from perpetrators and victims. The courage of ordinary people in going before the camera and speaking frankly on such a topic is impressive. The strength of these testimonies, and their painful honesty, soon makes you forget the warning about strong language and explicit material. The participants include a lonely man who molested both his daughters, a teenage girl who gets a letter from an abusive boyfriend, a woman who was sexually abused. Again and again it emerges that the abusers were themselves abused and that victims often become offenders in turn. It is a vicious circle, difficult to break, though the programme explores possibilities of therapy and rehabilitation (s) (308859)

12.0.0.0 *Films* *Max Dugan Returns* (1953). Charming Neil Simon comedy starring Marsha Mason as a schoolteacher struggling to bring up her teenage son, who is reunited with his long-lost criminal father. (Telecast) (590214A). Ends at 3.20

2.2.0 *The Word* (s) (576214A). Ends at 3.20

4.50-5.50 The Big F. (2)

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RADIO 4

Steno on FM
Steno's Saturday Forecast 6.00
endevour that completing the

6.55 Weather 7:00 Today, and
7:20 News, 8:00, 8:50 News
7:20 Listeners Letter 7:25,
8:25 Sports News 7:45
Thought for the Day 7:55
Weather 8:40 Yesterday in
Warwick 8:58 Weather
9:00 News 8:55 Sport on a
Breakfast 9:05 *Oldie*
presents holiday news (s)
9:00 News; Loose Ends, with
Neel Sherrin
9:00 News; The Week in
Westminster
9:30 From Our Own
Correspondent 9:40
Money Box, with Alison
Mitchell

listeners, these 12 programmes
 about country life have been a
 model of their kind. A series
 noted for its lucid and good
 comradeship ended
 whispered, intimate and sad
 notes as Hems gave a cue to
 give another birth at the start
 of yet another long season.

5.25 The Art of Travel
Kathleen James describes
what it is like to be a Scot at
a church in Pakistan 5.50
Shipping 5.55 Weather
6:00 News and Sports Round-Up
6.25 Week Ending (?) 6.50
Headstart from Gotham's Mark
Sturgis

[illegible]

00 News; Any Answers? 071-580 4444 from 12.30pm
30 Playhouse: Accessing An

epic adventure by Peter
Roberts about the fate of the
man who murdered Thomas A

10.15 **The Year in Question** John Humphrys is in Plymouth to

David Lodge presents the fourth programme of a six-part series, *Leading Writers*, on Tuesday 11th March 1986 at 10.15pm.

10.45 **Idle Thoughts:** John Waters ponders on dining

30 Science Now: Peter Evans on
gene mapping in pigs
00 A Year in Harness

● CHOICE: It is the journalist in Paul Heiney as much as the farmer who says at the end of his first year as a farmer that

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the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (I) (4718637) **6.55 Spiff and Hercules.** Cartoon antics of a rival cat and dog (3910521) **7.00 Widget.** Animated adventures of a creature from outer space (S) (38453) **7.30 Sandokan** (17960) **8.00 The Himmannerd Cartoon** (6294455) **8.25 The Finder.** Drama series (1837189) **8.50 Dennis.** Animated adventures of a mischievous boy and his friends (5128960) **9.00 Tinto.** Herp's hero sets out to find a crashed meteorite (30219) **9.30 Dennis (I)** (3972502) **9.45 Flipper.** Adventures of the friendly dolphin (508182) **10.15 The Miraculous Mellips.** Australian fantasy drama. Samantha is disappointed to discover she is not the Chosen One (501613) **10.45 The Glants.** Vintage American science-fiction series (I) (730552) **11.00 The Glants.** Vintage American science-fiction series (I) (730552) **1.45 Little House on the Prairie.** The trials and tribulations of a close-knit family in the American mid-west (735434) **2.45 Football Rules.** Series explaining the laws of the world's most popular sport. Today, the mysticism surrounding the off-side rule is stripped away (11112160) **2.55 Gazzo's Soccer School.** Paul Gascogne shares the secret of his soccer skills with a bunch of young hopefuls. Narrated by Tony Robinson (I) (352453) **3.15 Football Italia.** Live coverage of the match between Lazio and Juventus (57460321) **3.30 The ABCs of World War Two.** **Yanks (1944, b/w).** Lively and likeable comedy starring William Bendix and Dennis O'Keefe as two marmos on leave in Australia during the second world war. Directed by Allan Dwan (56724) **5.00 Gerald McBoing on the Planet Moo.** Cartoon (6294354) **5.15 The ABCs of World War Two.** (488645) **5.15 High Interest.** John Pinder examines the busting of the bubble which has plunged Japan's formidable industrial machine into recession and threatens to break apart the social and political order (622366) **5.50 MovieWatch.** Film review programme (521) **6.00 MovieWatch.** Film review programme (521) **6.00 The early Centurians** as



Reunited: Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas (6.30pm)

0.00 Tears of the Dragon: Fire. The final programme examining the environmental crisis facing modern China features Chongqing in Sichuan, the acid rain capital of the world. (Teletext) (5521)

0.00 The Tilted Ground: Documentary tracing new movements in Scottish instrumental music. (a) 1186

0.00 Film: The Abyss (1989) starring Ed Harris. When a nuclear submarine is crippled, a rescue team is sent to investigate mysterious happenings on the ocean floor. Standard underwater adventure, enlivened by Oscar-winning special effects. Directed by James Cameron. (Teletext) (a) (80C/2502)

0.35 On the Other Side of the Atlantic: The Crossroads. Pranoy Roy, Indian television's top political journalist, presents this special programme about the upsurge of communal violence in most of India's cities. (SST/366)

2.40am Film: The Night Is Young (1986). Eccentric French thriller starring Denis Lavant as a petty thief involved in a plot to steal a dead cat from Hitler's grave at the English suburbs. Directed by Léos Carax. (G/223748). Ends at 2.50

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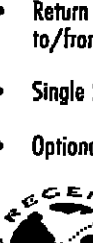
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When all that glittered sold

Nigella Lawson welcomes the chance for the 1970s generation to take its turn at wallowing in nostalgia



THE best thing about the 1970s is that they weren't the 1960s. Those of us "born too late", in the immortal words of the 1950s girl group the Poni-

Tails, to get groovy in the Cavern or the King's Road have had it up to here with people telling us about how fab it all was. We know, we know. They — you — whoever's responsible — have never stopped telling us. Enough. Our turn now. At least I thought it was. *Sounds of the Seventies* was supposed to be our generation claiming for itself its own right to nostalgia. I toyed with the idea that this was so, at any rate. It is, after all, about time we started wallowing in some nostalgia of our own. For too long we've had to make do with hand-me-downs. Television specials, starry-eyed recollections and in-depth retrospectives about the period fatuously and almost universally described as "the best decade of them all" have cornered the market too long. I mean to say I've seen so many televised reruns of 1960s pop groups that I seem to be able to muster a ruefully nostalgic sentiment for singers who were cutting discs before I was even cutting my first teeth.

There is, of course, a certain irony inherent in the movers and the shakers of the gimme-decade being frozen for what seems to be all time in a perpetual, unwavering, backward glance, but it is an irony that yields little amusement. For those of us who are excluded from this little orgy of retrospection, it is rather like having to look too long and too closely at other people's holiday snaps: frankly boring.

TV REVIEW

So there I was last Saturday, thinking, "At last a chance to get our own back." But what do I see? They're still doing it. Thirty-five minutes of *Sounds of the Seventies* on BBC2: a hundred minutes of sounds of the 1960s on ITV (*Trouble with the 60s*) and Channel 4 (reruns of *Ready, Steady, Go!*). And really, do I need to say it again? It's not as if we haven't heard these sounds before. And I don't just mean the songs.

There we are with Michael Aspel sitting on a squidgy curl-wrap leather chair, a coyly placed bubble TV at his side, in front of an invited studio audience of aging — no, forget that — old swingers, banging on about how bliss it was in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven. Aargh.

Actually, boring though it was (and yes, it did start with Mike Aspel reminding us that "they always say that the trouble with the 1960s was that if you remember them you weren't really there"), *Trouble with the 60s* was, in its own small way, illuminating.

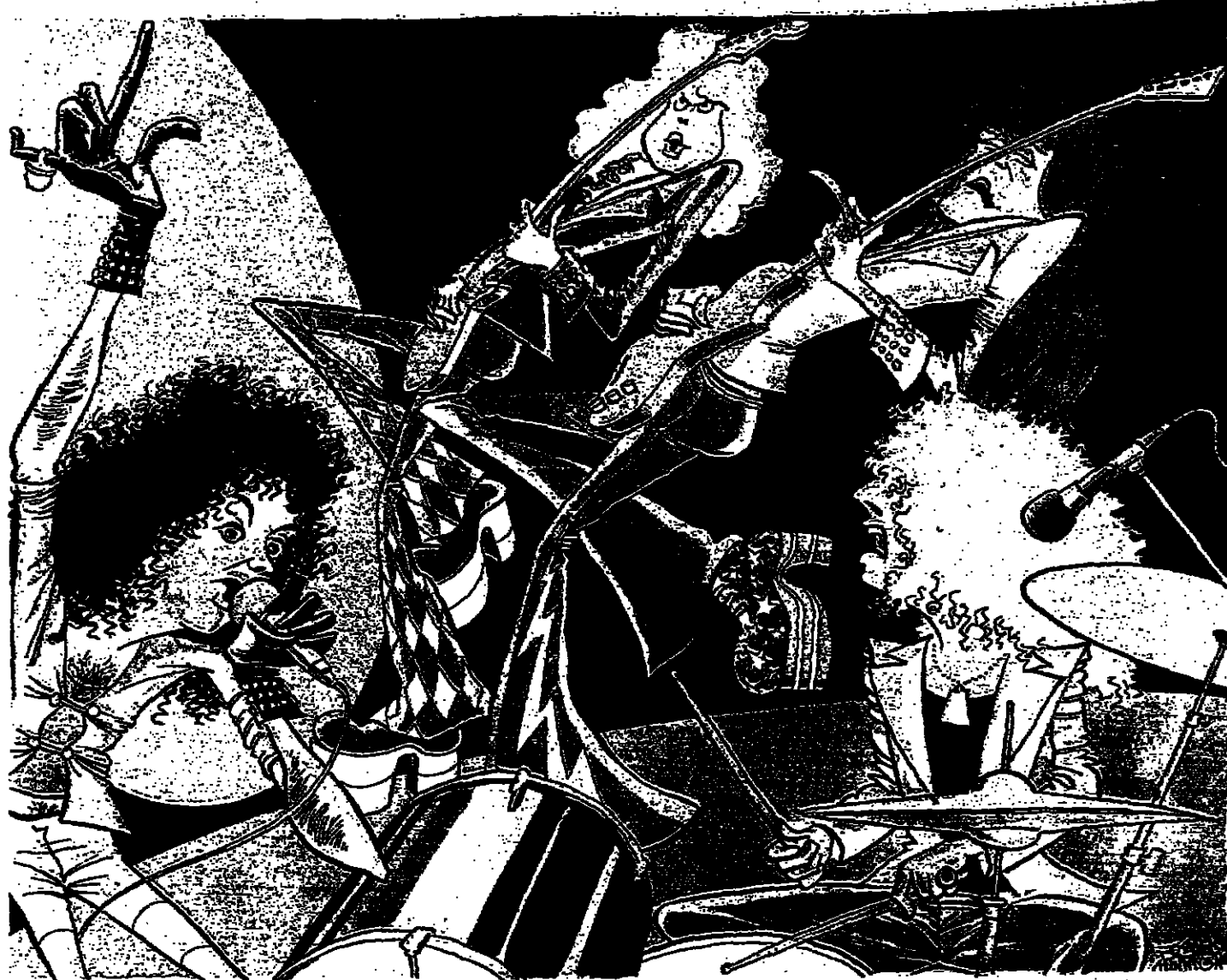
The 1960s, in popular mythology, was a big time full of big issues. But when you really listen to the people who were there retelling it how it was, it is not the grandeur of events but their self-aggrandising that stands out. George Melly talks about Ken Tynan saying what I supposed we are obliged to tag, embarrassingly, "the f-word" for the first time on television: "It was like a glass of the most marvellous champagne, an act of courage. I sent a telegram to congratulate him."

I suppose we have to credit the 1960s with being a time of utter sincerity (something, to their credit, of which the 1970s were innocent, of which more later), but it is a sincerity that doesn't travel well through time. Yesterday's sincerity is today's fatal lack of cynicism. And watching the somewhat embarrassing spectacle of grizzled, addled stars of the past sitting in their studio seats gazing up adoringly at television monitors flickering with images of their former glorious selves, it becomes evident that that identifying sincerity is born out of egotism: it is the rapt and humourless stance of the self-absorbed.

That endless backward glancing of 1960s guys and gals, you see, is not retrospection but introspection. They just can't bear to take their eyes off themselves. They focus dreamily on their golden age and profess that it was the golden age.

No such claims can be made for the 1970s. All that glitters may not be gold, but frankly, who cares? Not that the 1970s deserve quite the disparagement with which they have fashionably been lumbered. Even those of us who spent some of our youth encased in loons and multi-layered platforms are self-consciously keen to deride the decade. In truth, that is partly because, in reflecting on the age, we do ourselves reflect it and if the 1960s were self-absorbed and naïvely sincere, the 1970s were camp, self-mocking and self-conscious.

The 1970s, as was amply and rewardingly shown on sounds of the same, were like some grotesque blossoming of the 1960s: the iconically long hair was worn even longer, curlier, wilder; the drop-out Byronic pose dwindled into ironic lassitude; ruffled-shirt effeminacy



Glam busters: the 1970s were a "grotesque blossoming of the 1960s: ruffled-shirt effeminacy became strutting drag-queenship"

became strutting drag-queenship. The 1970s weren't momentous, they weren't significant — to give an idea, an epoch-evoking newswatch is provided in the programme by Gordon Honeycombe talking about the drought — but the music's not as bad as is commonly thought, and the clothes are better.

I agree that you are not likely to find Christopher Ricks lecturing on T Rex's lyrics: "She's faster than most and she lives on the coast" lacks a certain something, talent for one. But those cheekbones, those satin-clad hips:

you can't not appreciate Marc Bolan.

Gary Glitter, who was born Paul Gadd and could have become, instead, Vicky Vornit, as those who have read the great man's autobiography will know, is naturally enough central to the decade and the programme. OK, so he didn't do much better with lyrics: "I love you love me. I love you true love. I love you love me" is not the work of a poet-songster, but actually, he has become far more popular in retrospect than he ever was at the time. Only now can one really appreciate the solemn campness of his perior-

mance. It was, of course, a camp decade and this is to its credit, campness being a mark of a higher civilisation.

I'm not sure Alvin Stardust or David Cassidy are marks of a higher civilisation, but then they were not best represented on the programme. Who, seriously, would choose the former's "Jealous Mind" over his masterpiece, "My Coo-ca-choo", or the latter's "Some Kind of a Summer" rather than "Could It Be Forever"?

These are aesthetic quibbles only, of course, although there were disturbing lacunae. No Middle of

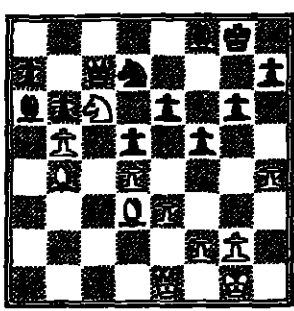
the Road performing their seminal work, "Chippy Chippy Cheap Cheap". No England World Cup Squad with "Back Home". And a rescreening of *Labelle* ("Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir" — remember?) would do more than evoke the disco floors d'antan: these three breastplated and pointy-bosomed chanteuses showed themselves to be kitted out à la Gaultier before Gaultier and before Madonna.

I hope these are to come. There are nine more instalments, and I shall be watching every one of them.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Kasparov — Timman, Tilburg 1991. If Timman reaches the world championship final, he will meet Russia's Gary Kasparov who has a big plus score against him. Here is one example of Kasparov's numerous wins. How did white force immediate resignation?



winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1. Qe2. The winners are A.J. Cook, Northwood; R. Carey, Castlebar; M.D. Taylor, Hemel Hempstead.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

HISTORICALS

CURT MANTLE

a. King Henry II

b. The Emperor Caracalla

c. A low chimney piece

OLD PARR

a. The oldest parrot in the zoo

b. A cohort of salmon

THE OLDEST ENGLISHMAN

a. A fast stallion

b. Charles II

c. Hero of a nursery rhyme

OLD MO

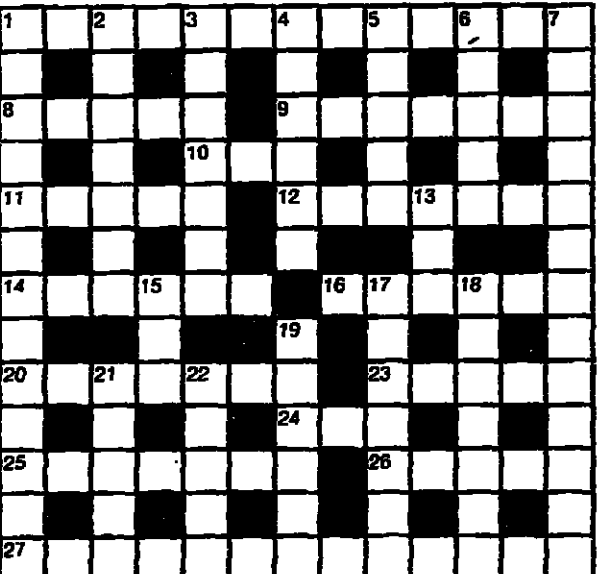
a. A teenage tennis champion

b. A Drury Lane music hall

c. New Year's Eve

Answers on page 2

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3003



ACROSS

1 Raymond Chandler

deceitful (6,7)

8 Cry of joy (5)

9 Gathered in (5,2)

10 Curve (3)

11 Horse straps (5)

12 Swamp (7)

14 Sampled (6)

16 Sandwich Islands (6)

20 Downfall (7)

23 Bind up again (5)

24 French "yes" (3)

25 Italian dumplings (7)

26 Phase (5)

27 Trialists (13)

DOWN

1 Fight for control (5,8)

2 Piano keys (7)

3 Dead end (7)

4 Lucky charm (6)

5 Manorial steward (5)

6 Lutra lutra (5)

7 Great width (13)

13 Uncooked (3)

15 As well (3)

17 Native of second largest continent (7)

18 Thing (7)

19 Self concern (6)

21 Sag (5)

22 Meet with (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 3002

ACROSS: 1 Simulate 5 Whos 9 Mundane 10 Kudos 11 Mean 12 Captain 14 Reside 16 Sketch 19 Nominal 21 Nick 24 Mince 25 Zip code 26 Nix 27 Trenches

DOWN: 1 Some 2 Mince 3 Learned 4 Thence 6 Hydrant 7 Absinthe 8 Skip 13 Front man 15 Summons 17 Kingpin 18 Blazer 20 Nest 22 Cloth 23 Lics

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels (runs on most PCs), call Abdon Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS D master on 0202 890 000. Just released - the First Book of The Times - Jumbo Concise Crosswords, £5.99, Ring Adam.

Shocking reality of Death Row

TV PREVIEW

Fine Cut: The Execution Protocol

Tonight, BBC2, 7.50pm

This is the second in a series of feature-length documentaries made by independent film-makers (Nigella Lawson writes). Stephen Trombley focuses his camera on three inmates at the Potosi Correctional Centre, Missouri, who are condemned to death, and those about to implement the sentence. It is not the morality but the reality of the situation that Trombley presents. An anti-sensationalist but utterly shocking film.

Sounds of the Seventies

Tonight, BBC2, 7.15pm

"Satin and Tar" is the title of this second programme in the series which fixes its seamy-eyed gaze on those even the most seamy-eyed cannot laugh out of significance: the Moody Blues, the Who, the Rolling Stones, the Faces, Roxy Music, Queen, Elton John and David Bowie. Also, watch out for choice footage of Jeremy Paxman interviewing Pete Townshend.

The South Bank Show: Dracula

Tomorrow, ITV, 10.50pm

LWT's flagship arts programme returns to our screens with an investigation into one of the most enduring creatures of the imagination. Bram Stoker created Dracula, the vampire count, in 1897 and in our century his evocation has been a constant of the cinema, culminating in Francis Ford Coppola's new film, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, opening in Britain any minute now, which claims to be a faithful adaptation of Stoker's novel. Tomorrow night's programme, presented by Melvyn Bragg, mixes the psychosocial approach with showbiz appeal, as it closely examines what lies behind the myth, how it has evolved and what accounts for its visceral appeal, with the aid of, among illustrious others, Christopher Frayling, Dan Faron, Coppola, Winona Ryder and Christopher Lee.

Heart of the Matter: Defender of the Faith

Tomorrow, BBC1, 10.30pm

Joan Bakewell considers the position and future of the Prince of Wales. Recent allegations about his private life have rekindled the debate about his accession to the throne. It seems evident that much of the moral sensitiveness of the situation would be diffused were the monarch not also head of the Church of England. There are, of course, other, less purely expedient, arguments in favour of the disestablishment of the Church, but affairs of the day do provide a timely excuse for their airing.

Cheff

Thursday, BBC1, 9.30pm

A new series in which one of the funniest men alive, Lennox Henry, plays explosive, superintelligent chef, Gareth Blackstock, maître de cuisine in a swanky restaurant, Peter Tilbury, who wrote the sitcom, appears as the restaurant manager.

The Julian Cope explosion



JULIAN Cope has just walked on stage in a skinny, skinnier pair of black tights, and a coat with paws and a tail sewn on it. His bleached-out, burn-out blond hair is piled up on his head and falling over his bony face. He wears no shoes.

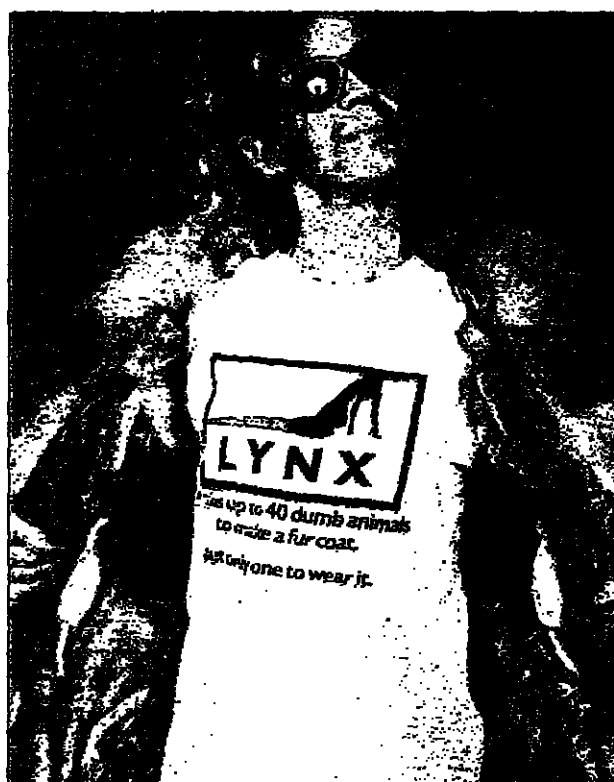
Cope looks as if he's existing in several centuries at once. He stands in the spotlight for a few minutes, as if it's feeding his soul. Then he laughs. "I've just realised what I am," he says, strapping his guitar on in preparation for the next song. "I'm a lesbian trapped in a man's body."

There's a giggly rumble from the audience, which is slowly drowned by a howl, growl whine of feedback. Julian H. Cope begins the outrageous strut of "Hanging Out & Hung Up On The Line", dancing around, being all showbiz with a huge grin on his face and his little tail swishing from side to side.

Some people in the audience go quietly delirious. Me? I'm one of the louder ones. When the Teardrop Explodes exploded in the early 1980s, Cope was "Dopey Copey", famous for a vituperative tongue, astounding arrogance, a mind like a gin-trap, and for penning several stupidly brilliant songs — "Reverend", "Passionate Friend", "Treason".

As well as all this, he was renowned for his experiments in brain expansion and dilation, for more than occasional being, as one song put it, "out of my mind on dope and speed". The early solo albums have a lot of "my mind's on overload" type lyrics: every song is a head-bust of jumbled ideas.

As time shuffled by, however,



Arch-Drude: Cope turns to celebrations for pagans

er, Cope cleared his life and his head up, and progressed from being "Dopey Copey" to "Saint Julian" and "Julian H. Cope". And now, with his two most recent albums — the more experimental, spaced-out, cued-up glory-grind of *Peggy Suicide* and *Jehovah-kill* — Cope has sketched in the borders of his current interests, the reclaiming of Christian symbolism and celebration for pagans and other non-believers, and the forthcoming disintegration/destruction/suicide of the earth.

Cope says. He's zipped up in a baggy green jumpsuit and perched on the edge of a sofa. It's 20 minutes and counting before he goes on stage. There's a tour manager hovering around edgily in the background. Cope seems positively oblivious. "I was born out of punk, very sceptical. Stonehenge for me used to be like, yeah, the tackiest thing in the world. But if you're not too serious about these things, like Sting, you can keep an open mind."

Cope has changed now from the sardonic frontman of the Teardrop Explodes to a serene and witty person. He has converted from being a Wrecked Pop Star to "Arch-

Drude", very aware of the push of the earth. "I'll all wash down, it'll all wash down when it rains" — that's pretty much the attitude of all the major corporations. Dump it, leave it to rot: the earth will take care of it...

"Summer of 1990, I had a vision of the world... I saw Mother Earth standing at the very edge of the highest cliff of infinity. She was about to leap off. These days I called Mother Earth 'Peggy Suicide', he says in the lyrics and sleeve notes to *Peggy Suicide*.

So has this turned Cope against humankind? Does he hate humans for screwing up most of the planet so royally?

"Nah... I'm always going to have allegiance to my species, because I think, as a species, we've gone through a lot of shit. We did have all of this forced upon us, so we don't really know what we're supposed to be doing, or the best way of going about it. And if this is all an experiment, I'm gonna be really pissed off with whoever created it, because I think that it was a fanciful and, yeah, a slightly spiteful idea."

He pauses for a minute. The tour manager is vibrating with anxiety. "I'll always have allegiance to my species," he concludes. And with that, Cope is whisked off to don a skinnier, skinnier pair of black tights and a coat with paws and a tail sewn into it.

I want him as controller of BBC1. I want him as prime minister. I want him as Pope. Is it possible to vote for Julian Cope in 1996?

CAITLIN MORAN

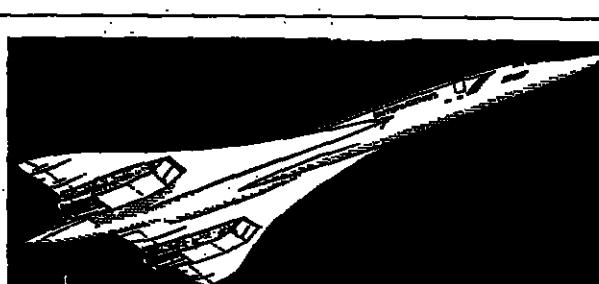
Julian Cope's four-night date next week at the Town & Country Club, 9-17, Highgate Road, London NW5 1JY (071-284 0303), is sold out except Tuesday.

GUILTY SECRETS

Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter



CHANNEL 4 racing is my guilty secret: I am a complete addict of the flat, less so the jumps. If I'm working on a Saturday, I will tape it. On Derby day I have been known to watch the television in the press office at work. Shelter staff regard this as quite out of character; they don't even run a sweepstake here on Grand National day. I keep hoping that someone will sponsor a race meeting in aid of Shelter or name a good two-year-old after us. There are real housing problems in the racing industry for low-paid workers who retire or lose their jobs. They are often in tied houses.



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